



## **Agenda Item 6**

**Application for Financial Assistance,  
Falkirk Trades Union Council**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title:**                    **Application for Financial Assistance, Falkirk Trades Union Council**

**Meeting:**                **Falkirk Common Good Committee**

**Date:**                    **21 September 2018**

**Submitted By:**        **Director of Corporate & Housing Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1     An application has been received from Falkirk Trades Union Council for funding towards the erection of an International Workers Memorial Day memorial in Falkirk town centre.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1     **The Committee is asked to consider:-**

**(1) The application for £15,500 from Falkirk Common Good Fund towards the erection of an International Workers Memorial Day memorial.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1     The project is to erect an International Workers Memorial in Callander Riggs between Callendar Square Shopping Centre and Falkirk Bus Station.
- 3.2     As well as honouring those who have lost their lives in workplace accidents it highlights the need for strong health and safety regulation and oversight.
- 3.3     The memorial will hold a steel globe reflecting the international aspect of the commemoration which is marked around the world on April 28 each year.
- 3.4     The memorial stone was designed and carved by trainees from Forth Valley College working with Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The stone has been stored by HES awaiting approval erect the memorial in the town centre. The erection itself will be project managed by Falkirk Council's Development Services.

- 3.5 The memorial will be the first piece of public art to be placed in Falkirk town centre in over 100 years and will provide a new focus for the pedestrian public. In addition to honouring workers it will also provide a setting for other events related to workers' activities. Falkirk Trades Union Council intends to install some additional information to help explain to passers-by what the memorial represents. Further discussions will take place with Falkirk Council on this. Any plaque installed would include the Falkirk Council logo to acknowledge support of the project by Falkirk Council and the Falkirk Common Good Fund.
- 3.6 The project will enhance the public realm at the east end of Falkirk High Street and, in doing so, will encourage more people to visit this part of the town. This will benefit local businesses along Falkirk High Street and Callendar Riggs.
- 3.7 Young people will also benefit from the project. Falkirk Trades Union Council will encourage schools to become involved in an ongoing educational project centred on Falkirk's industrial past. This would be delivered through the Unions in Schools programme.
- 3.8 A public opening celebration to mark the installation of the memorial will be held and this will be promoted through social media channels, media release to the Falkirk Herald and local radio.

#### **4. Considerations**

- 4.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is £769,421 at 31 March 2018. Rents and interest received for the financial year 2018/19 are anticipated to be around £27,000, thus giving a projected balance of £796,421.
- 4.2 The last grant funded by the Committee was in January. There were no grants awarded in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far.

#### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 The applicant has stated that the proposal was given unanimous cross-party support by various elected members when the idea was first raised. Officers have worked with Falkirk Trades Union Council on this project. It has also been welcomed by various groups, including Falkirk Towns Ltd, Hazards Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, Forth Valley College and Trade union branches in the area.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial**

- 6.1 The total cost of the memorial is £16,500 and funding of £15,500 is sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund. Falkirk Trades Union Council have very limited funds of their own.
- 6.1.1 Further funding/donations have been received from local businesses to the value of £1,000 and this will fund the remaining cost of the memorial.
- 6.1.2 There are a total of 5 applications for funding from Falkirk Common Good to be considered today. These total £90,386, however, it should be noted that one of these applications is for recurring funding of £6,410 per annum.

### **Resources**

- 6.2 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

### **Legal**

- 6.3 Falkirk Council own the land that the memorial will be sited on. A Building Warrant, Construction Compliance and Notification Plan have been approved and issued by Falkirk Council.

### **Risk**

- 6.4 There are no risk implications which arise from the report recommendations.

### **Equalities**

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.6 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The sum requested is £15,500. The project is of community benefit and will improve the public realm in Falkirk Town Centre.

- 7.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance and no grants were approved in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far. Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

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## **Director of Corporate & Housing Services**

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Date: 17 September 2018

## **Appendices**

None

## **List of Background Papers:**

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Application received from Mr Duncan McCallum, Secretary, Falkirk Trades Union Council on 15 March 2018.