

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Seal of the City of Dollar. The seal is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top is a crown with four fleur-de-lis. The shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left shows a castle tower, top-right shows a stag's head with antlers, bottom-left shows a sailing ship on water, and bottom-right shows an eagle with spread wings. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the Gaelic motto 'AN FHOIRN FHOIRN'.

Agenda Item 4

Application for Financial Assistance - Friends of Dollar Park

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance -
Friends of Dollar Park

Meeting: Falkirk Common Good Committee

Date: 7 February 2023

Submitted By: Director of Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Friends of Dollar Park to fund Phase 2 of the project to restore the dovecote and adjacent buildings in Dollar Park.
- 1.2 Awards from the Common Good Fund to local projects which are for public use accord with the Council priority of supporting stronger and healthier communities.

2. Recommendations

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

(1) The application for funding of £58,822.80 from Falkirk Common Good Fund to undertake the restoration works forming Phase 2 of the project on the dovecote and adjacent buildings in Dollar Park.

3. Climate Change Implications

- 3.1 A decision to award funding as requested will have minimal impact on the Council's Climate Change targets.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Friends of Dollar Park was formed to act as a forum and lobby on behalf of people with an interest in Dollar Park. They aim to develop a sense of community ownership, improve the environment through development and sustainability and act as voluntary guardians of the

park.

- 4.2 The dovecote and adjacent buildings are deemed to be Falkirk Common Good Fund Assets, as is Arnotdale which is close by.
- 4.3 The dovecote and its white doves were a great attraction over decades of generations at Dollar Park. It was built in 1834 and little work appears to have been done to maintain it. The restored dovecote will be a fairly rare attraction in Scotland. Additional seating will also be provided. Upon completion of the project there will be a public launch event.
- 4.4 The Friends obtained £80,000 of funding from Community Choices in 2021 to restore the dovecote, this is Phase 1 of the project.
- 4.5 Council planning officers deemed that the two adjacent, dangerously derelict buildings had originally formed the dovecote and insisted that permission would only be given for all three buildings together.
- 4.6 Phase 1 of the project is due to commence mid-January 2023 and Phase 2 would start immediately thereafter while the contractor is on site.
- 4.7 The Friends have only submitted one tender for work with this application. They advised that this was accepted by Community Choices for Phase 1 because of the unique nature of the work which required specialist stonemasons as well as consistency with other works. As the local contractor will start in January on Phase 1 it is suggested that it makes financial and practical sense to use the same contractor, who will continue throughout. The Committee is advised that the Council's Contract Standing Orders are not engaged for an award such as this i.e., an award to a third party who will contract works for its project. There is no requirement for the Council's more stringent tendering procedures for projects over £50,000 to be followed. That said the Committee may wish to satisfy itself that an award of this size represents best value.
- 4.8 The following information has been provided as a breakdown of the project:

Activity	Cost £
Roof works	14,814.00
External wall works	30,605.00
Internal wall works	3,600.00
VAT	9,803.80
Total	58,822.80
Amount requested from Falkirk Common Good Fund	58,822.80

5. Considerations

- 5.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund was £691,290 at financial year end 31 March 2022.
Rents and interest received for the financial year 2021/22 are anticipated to be around £34,500, giving an available projected balance of £725,790.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 No consultation has been carried out on the report's proposals.

7. Implications

Financial

- 7.1 The total cost of Phase 2 of the project is £58,822.80 and this is being sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund.
- 7.2 If the application is approved the project will be funded as follows:

Funding Sources	£	Status
Falkirk Common Good Fund	58,822.80	Applying now
Total Project Cost Phase 2	58,822.80	

- 7.3 The Friends of Dollar Park has £1,564.36 in its bank account per the October 2022 statement provided.
- 7.4 In the financial year 2022/23 to date no grants have been awarded.
- 7.5 The last award made was for £25,000 to Bainsford War Memorial Association as a second payment to them in October 2021.

Resources

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

Legal

- 7.7 There are no legal implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Risk

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

Equalities

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

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

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

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The sum requested is £58,822.80. The project is of community benefit and for works on a Falkirk Common Good Fund asset.
- 8.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance, however, members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services

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Date: 2 February 2023

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 and final supporting documentation received from Mr Pat Reid, Secretary of Friends of Dollar Park, 11 December 2022 to 11 January 2023.