
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

1 May 2018

Cabinet

Title: **Festival and Events Fund**

Purpose: This report proposes an approach to the operation of the temporary fund to support community run festivals and events in North Ayrshire, as agreed by Council on 20th December 2017

Recommendation: That Cabinet approves:

- (a) The proposals for the operation of a temporary fund for community run festivals and events of £150,000; and
- (b) The proposed review of the operation of the fund after the first year.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This proposal has been brought forward as a result of the report agreed by North Ayrshire Council on 20th December 2017 in relation to addressing the funding requirements of the Marymass and Largs Viking Festival due to a potential reduction in the amount that Irvine and Largs Common Goods can make available for annual grant distribution. That report sought Council approval to create a fund to support community organised festivals and events which would be available to offset reductions in Common Good funding (to accommodate Streetscene recharges in Irvine and Largs) and which would also be available to support festivals and events across North Ayrshire.
- 1.2 The current report proposes a mechanism to manage the distribution of this temporary fund.

2. Background

- 2.1 There are a number of festivals and events which are organised and run by communities across North Ayrshire. Some organisations raise funds and apply for North Ayrshire Council grants, local Common Good funds and other external organisations to support their activities, whilst the two larger festivals are dependent on local Common Good Funds.

2.2 The two large annual festivals are Marymass in Irvine, and the Largs Viking Festival. Based on 2017/18, these events received the following funding from the Common Good funds in their towns:

- Marymass Festival, Irvine: £48,000
- Largs Viking Festival: £5,000

2.3 At the Council meeting in December 2017, it was noted that the requirement for Common Goods to be charged for Grounds Maintenance work would reduce the level of grant available for disbursement from the Largs Common Good and Irvine Common Good Funds.

2.4 Members were concerned at the impact of this on both the Marymass Festival and Viking Festival. Both of which receive financial support from these two Common Good Funds.

2.5 To allow both of these festivals to be supported, but also to support other festivals and events across North Ayrshire to develop to become more sustainable, the Council agreed to put in place an initial and one-off Festivals and Events Fund of £150,000. This allows the Marymass Festival and Largs Viking Festival to continue their work to attract other alternative funding.

2.6 The Special Meeting of Council on 28 February 2018, when approving the amounts available for distribution from Common Goods, agreed the principle that the amounts could eat into the capital of the Funds. Council agreed the following amounts for distribution, namely:

Ardrossan	£26,767
Irvine	£26,757
Largs	£13,355
Millport	£12,532
Saltcoats	£15
Stevenston	£14,183

The impact of this is that Largs and Irvine Common Good will still have sums available for distribution and the Festivals and Events fund will act as a top up, rather than being the only source of funding.

2.7 With the introduction of the new temporary fund of £150,000, it is therefore proposed that:

2.7.1 Irvine and Largs Locality Partnerships, with support from NAC Finance, at a special meeting called for this purpose, should review current expenditure of their Common Good funds and assess the level of available funds to support the current requirements of the Marymass and Viking festivals in this and in future financial years;

2.7.2 Irvine and Largs Locality Partnerships, supported by NAC Finance and Connected Communities officers, should, in this year only, identify the amount which needs to be requested from the new temporary fund to appropriately support the two festivals. The total of these requests should be no more than the previous year's total award from the Common Good Fund;

2.7.3 Connected Communities will prepare an application form (to be Appendix 1) which enables the Marymass and Largs Festival Committee to apply to the new fund for the additional funds over and above the Common Good allocation agreed by the Locality partnership, again the total sum of both requests not exceeding the previous year's allocation, and demonstrating external funding applications as part of the process. Connected Communities will support the Marymass Festival Committee and the Largs Viking Festival Committee to make the appropriate applications to the fund;

2.7.4 Based on the desire to also support organised events and festivals across North Ayrshire, and given that the new fund is temporary in nature and will not in future replace other internal and external funding sources, it is proposed that a one-off allocation of £4,000 per Locality is allocated, for disbursement by Locality Partnerships, with the support of Connected Communities officers, to events and festivals related proposals which evidence Locality collaboration and which contribute to reducing future costs for local organisers; and

2.7.5 The balance of the temporary fund will be carried forward into future years.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees:

- (a) The proposals for the operation of a temporary fund for community run festivals and events of £150,000; and
- (b) To review the operation of the fund after the first year.

4. Implications

Financial:	The creation of a non-recurring Festival and Events Fund of £150,000 has been funded from a specific current year underspend. Once expended, as per the above proposals, Council would require to identify new funding as part of a future budget exercise if desired.
Human Resources:	Officers from Finance and Economy and Communities will be required to support the allocation and disbursement of the fund, and Communications with the organisational support required by event and festival.
Legal:	<p>As the Festivals and Events Fund does not form part of the Common Goods, there is no requirement that it be used to benefit any particular town. However as the rationale for setting up the fund was to minimise the impact of Common Good funding shortfalls on Marymass and Largs Viking Festival, it is logical the needs of these festivals are addressed first, before the remainder of the budget is allocated.</p> <p>The determination of any specific grant would be for the appropriate Locality Partnership to determine, subject to their normal grant application processes.</p>
Equality:	There are no equality implications.
Children and Young People:	There are no Children and Young People implications.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no environmental and sustainability implications.
Key Priorities:	The continuation of vibrant festivals supports the Council Plan objective of Working Together to Develop Stronger Communities.
Community Benefits:	None.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Irvine and Largs Locality Partnerships were advised in September 2017 of the implications of grounds maintenance charges being charged to Common Goods. There has also been consultation with the Executive Directors of Economy and Communities, Finance and Customer Support and Place.



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For further information please contact **Audrey Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities)** on **(01294) 324414**.

Background Papers

None