

CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 10 MARCH 2020

SUBJECT: ELGIN COMMON GOOD – ANDERSONS CARE HOME

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee is invited to consider an application from Andersons Care Home for financial assistance from Elgin Common Good Fund towards the cost of installing a lift to carry multiple people, beds and wheelchairs.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (B) (16) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to dealing with the management and investment of funds including Common Good.

2. REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

- 2.1 This report contains information relating to the financial affairs of Anderson Care Home

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **The Committee is asked to consider a request for funding from Andersons Care Home which, if approved, will be funded from the Elgin Common Good Fund.**

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Decisions in relation to Common Good Funds are delegated to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with local Members. If agreement of at least two thirds of local Members cannot be obtained on an application for funding from Common Good then the application will be reported to Policy and Resources Committee.
- 4.2 Andersons Care Home has requested a contribution of £7,500 to assist in paying for the costs associated with the installation of a new lift. Due to architectural constraints of the old building, existing lifts are too small for the requirements of a modern care home. A new lift has been designed for

external installation at the rear of the building. It will not only have enough space for resident, carer and bed or wheelchair but will also be able to be used by emergency services to access/evacuate residents.

- 4.3 Andersons Care Home in Elgin is a residential care home for elderly people. It is operated as a not-for-profit charitable trust, the General Anderson Trust, which is overseen by a volunteer board of governors drawn from the local community. The home is currently registered for 53 residents, the majority of whom reside in the main old building. The remainder, up to 14 persons, are accommodated in the nearby Easton House. Moray Council contracts with Andersons Care Home as one of our residential care home providers. Approximately 100 staff are employed by Andersons, providing care and support to residents. The design and fabric of the old building presents operational challenges – Andersons has strategic plans for internal modernisation, operational and energy efficiencies and external maintenance which will require substantial investment. The first of these projects is the installation of a modern lift.
- 4.4 The Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 16 January 2002, to continue with the policy of distribution of two-thirds of the estimated annual income available from the Common Good Funds (paragraph 22 of the minute refers). The remaining third is to be re-invested in order to maintain the funds for future generations. Under this policy £48,826 was available for disbursement from Elgin Common Good in 2019/20 after deductions for a capital repayment and half of the 2017/18 overspend were made. As stated in paragraph 4(c) there is currently a balance of £26,884.81 available to be disbursed in 2019/20.
- 4.5 An examination of the Andersons Care Home accounts shows a deficit of £56,944 for the year ended 31 October 2018. The Balance Sheet shows that the group hold the following funds at the same date:

Cash at Bank/in hand	£ 104,453
Investments (Fixed Interest Deposits)	£ 222,301

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

None

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council's adoption of the policy of retaining one third of disposable income in each financial year will protect the capital for each of the Common Good Funds and ensure their sustainability in the future.

(c) Financial implications

£48,826 was available for disbursement in 2019/20 from the Elgin Common Good Fund. To date £13,182.50 has been disbursed to various groups within Elgin and £1,000 has been committed. It was

agreed to contribute £4,900 to the seagull deterrent and property costs of £2,858.69 have been incurred. This leaves a balance of £26,884.81 available for disbursement from the 2019/20 total.

(d) Risk Implications

There is a risk that awarding a grant towards the core function of this care provider could be seen as anti-competitive regarding other care providers in Moray.

(e) Staffing Implications

None

(f) Property

None

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None

(h) Consultations

Local Members for Elgin have been consulted and a consensus view could not be achieved. The matter has therefore been referred to this Committee for a decision.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request from Andersons Care Home in Elgin to assist them with funding towards the cost of installing a lift.

Author of Report: Nicky Gosling, Accountant – Ext 3130
Background Papers:
Ref: