



---

**REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 13 MARCH 2019**

**SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING FROM COMMON GOOD**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To request Council to approve a streamlining of the procedures for processing applications for funding from the Common Good.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (B) (16) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the Management and Investment of Funds, including the Common Good.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that Council approves that:**

- (i) applications for funding from Common Good continue to be considered by local members in the first instance and that if two thirds or more of local members are in agreement that should be sufficient authority to proceed under the delegated authority of the Head of Financial Services; and
- (ii) if the 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.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Prior to May 1999, all decisions on applications for funding from the Common Good were made by the Policy and Resources Committee.

- 3.2 Thereafter, applications were delegated to the Depute Chief Executive (Finance and IT) (as this post no longer exists, the current delegation is to the Head of Financial Services) in consultation with local members. Since then the practice has been that if local members are in agreement on an application then the unanimously agreed decision will be actioned, otherwise the application will be reported to Policy and Resources Committee or to Full Council for a decision to be made.
- 3.3 A similar process for approving expenditure of Developer Obligations for community facilities, playing fields, indoor / outdoor sports facilities and library facilities was approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 25 October 2016 (paragraph 5 of the Minute refers), giving delegated authority to the Head of Development Services to allocate Developer Obligations associated with such facilities, in consultation with ward members
- 3.4 On 12 February 2019 Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the process for dealing with Developer Obligations would be streamlined, with a two thirds majority sufficient for a decision to be made under the delegation.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the process for Common Good applications is brought into line with that of Developer Obligations in that a two thirds majority of local members would be deemed sufficient for a decision to be made under delegated authority.
- 3.6 In the event that a two third majority is not reached applications would still be reported to Policy and Resources Committee or to Full Council. In practice, this would mean that for Buckie, Cullen, Dufftown and Portknockie Common Goods decisions would always be possible under delegated authority, as these each relate to a single three member ward.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

There is no link to the Corporate Plan or the LOIP.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

There are no policy or legal issues arising from this report.

**(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risks arising from this report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

The recommendation of this report would reduce staff time in seeking agreement from ward members and in preparing reports for committee.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications arising from this report.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

There are no implications for equalities or the socio-economic duty.

**(h) Consultations**

The Corporate Management Team, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Democratic Services Manager and Nicky Gosling, Accountant, have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments included.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 Adopting the requirement for a two-thirds agreement from local members on applications for funding from the Common Good would streamline the process in line with that recently approved for Developer Obligations.**

Author of Report: Lorraine Paisey, Head of Financial Services  
Background Papers:  
Ref: LP/LJC/