



---

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

**SUBJECT: FORRES COMMON GOOD – FORRES MECHANICS FOOTBALL CLUB**

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

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The Council is invited to consider an application from Forres Mechanics Football Club for financial assistance from Forres Common Good Fund towards the cost of the upkeep of their football pitch.
- 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. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Council is asked to consider a request for funding from Forres Mechanics Football Club. If approved, the grant will be funded from the Forres Common Good Fund.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Decisions in relation to Common Good Funds are delegated to the Head of Financial Services in consultation with local Members. Where local Members do not reach a consensus view the request is referred to Moray Council for a decision.
- 3.2 Forres Mechanics Football Club have requested a contribution of £3,000, or any part thereof, to assist in paying for the costs associated with the upkeep of their football pitch. Forres Mechanics Football Club has been improving the condition of the ground over the years and has recently installed new drainage costing £22,000 which was funded by a grant from Berry Burn. The club use the grounds to provide organised development of football skills for children, youths and adults and to provide a venue for Forres Mechanics to compete in the Scottish Highland Football League
- 3.3 Forres Mechanics Football Club occupied Mosset Park under the terms of an informal annual tenancy dating back to 1896 paying £5.60 per annum in the

year to December 2012. Following valuation advice in 2012 from the District Valuer on the Open Market rent for Mosset Park, the value of the rent was fairly stated as £35,000 per annum, while the rental for Existing Use was fairly stated as being £4,500 per annum. The Moray Council agreed on 6 June 2018 (paragraph 19 of the minute refers) to award £3,000 from the Forres Common Good to Forres Mechanics Football Club for assistance towards the cost of their annual lease.

- 3.4 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 it is anticipated that £18,212 will be available for disbursement from Forres Common Good in 2018/19.
- 3.5 An examination of the Forres Mechanics Football Club accounts shows a deficit of £6,454 for the year ended 31 March 2017. The Balance Sheet shows that the group hold the following funds at the same date:

Cash at Bank/in hand	£	8,413
Bank loan/overdraft	£	<u>(14,630)</u>
Bank/Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	£	<u>(6,217)</u>

#### **4. 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**

£18,212 was available for disbursement in 2018/19 from the Forres Common Good Fund. To date £13,889 has been disbursed to various groups within Forres including a previous approved £3,000 grant to Forres Mechanics and £525 of property costs have been incurred, leaving a balance of £3,798 available for disbursement from the 2018/19 total. If this application is approved in full, it will leave a balance of £798 from the 2018/19 funds.

**(d) Risk Implications**

None

**(e) Staffing Implications**

None

**(f) Property**

None

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

None

**(h) Consultations**

Local Members for Forres 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 Council is asked to consider the request from Forres Mechanics Football Club to assist them with funding towards the cost of the upkeep of their football pitch**

Author of Report: Paul Connor, Principal Accountant – Ext 3121  
Background Papers:  
Ref: PC/LJC/