

OBSERVERS TO OBAN COMMON GOOD FUND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Trustees of the Oban Common Good Fund with information on the work undertaken by previous trustees in ensuring openness and transparency of decision making by the Fund, and to invite them to consider any steps they may wish to take to ensure continuation of this approach.

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Trustees of the Oban Common Good Fund with information on the work undertaken by previous trustees in ensuring openness and transparency of decision making by the Fund, and to invite them to consider any steps they may wish to take to ensure continuation of this approach.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- 2.1.1 Note the work previously undertaken to ensure openness and transparency of decision making by the Oban Common Good Fund and decide what approach, if any, they may wish to take to widening trusteeship or inviting observers to attend Common Good Fund meetings.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 In 2012 the incoming Trustees of the Oban Common Good Fund were keen to look at the operation of the Fund and see what developments they could undertake to make the fund as accessible as possible for applicants, and to ensure openness and transparency in all of the decision making process. To that end a number of significant developments were put in place relating to applications being able to be made online, end of project monitoring being required of all successful applicants, and regular review of the Criteria for applications and the distribution policy for the fund.
- 3.2 In November 2012 the Committee discussed options to widen Trustee membership and/or invite observers to meetings to ensure greater visibility to the community of the application of the fund. It was agreed to invite observers to attend, one from the community council and one representing the religious community in Oban. They would not have voting rights but would be invited to offer views on the business of the fund. This process has been in place at all meetings of the Fund which have taken place since that decision was made, with a representative from Oban Community Council, and one from the religious community, playing a full and very useful role in consideration of all applications to the Common Good Fund.

- 3.3 Given the incoming Trustees following the recent Council elections, it is a matter for the newly formed Oban Common Good Fund to decide what approach, if any, they may wish to take to widening trusteeship or inviting observers to attend Common Good Fund meetings.

4. CONCLUSION

Previous Trustees of Oban Common Good Fund made a number of development changes to the operation and administration of the Fund in the period since 2012 which have resulted in improved transparency and public awareness of the use of the Fund to the benefit of the residents of Oban, it is a matter for the incoming Trustees to decide what approach, if any, they may wish to take to widening trusteeship or inviting observers to attend Common Good Fund meetings.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | None |
| 5.2 | Financial | None |
| 5.3 | Legal | Ongoing review of the operation of the Common Good Fund enables Trustees to continue to work within the legislative framework covering such Funds. |
| 5.4 | HR | None |
| 5.5 | Equalities | None |
| 5.6 | Risk | None |
| 5.7 | Customer Service | None |

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