

The Highland Council
Finance, Housing and Resources Committee
22 January 2014

Agenda Item	18.iii
Report No	FHR/18/14

War Memorials

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to provide up to £50,000 per year over the four years from 2014/15 to 2017/18 from the Capital Discretionary Fund to support the refurbishment of our War Memorials, in recognition of the centenary of the First World War. This funding will allow the Council to make bids for additional funding from the Scottish Government's Centenary Memorial Restoration Fund.

1. Background

- 1.1 In a previous report presented to TECS committee on 19 September 2013 (TEC-68-13), it was agreed that a four year programme of repairs to our War Memorials be completed prior to the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, with further work to identify sources of external and internal funding.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government's £1million Centenary Memorial Restoration Fund is to help fund work on War Memorials throughout Scotland. This is being administered by the War Memorials Trust with funding released quarterly up to March 2018. Initial awards for 2013/14 Q1/2 for Scotland were £22k, awards for Q3 are expected to be announced at the end of January 2014.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Council officials have met with a number of local community groups and the British Legion.

3. Survey Results

- 3.1 Surveys to identify the scope of recommended refurbishment are virtually complete. War Memorial survey results are being made available to all interested parties to enable local communities to make an application to the appropriate funding partners.
- 3.2 The Council is responsible for 175 War Memorials. Throughout Scotland there are 5,000 identified War Memorials.
- 3.3 A schedule of repairs and refurbishment has been prepared and the total cost of repair and refurbishment, for the 175 War Memorials for which the Council has responsibility, is estimated at £310k.

4. War Memorials Trust Grant Applications and Other External Funding

4.1 Council officials have met with a representative of the War Memorials Trust.

4.2 The following significant criteria apply to Centenary Memorial Restoration Fund grant applications:

- Applications can be from anyone, not just Councils.
- Applications should include three competitive quotations for all works.
- Maximum grant will be 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £30k per memorial.
- Funds will be release quarterly until March 2018 at approximately £50k to £60k per quarter.
- Applications can cover multiple memorials.
- Applications will be awarded a priority by the War Memorials Trust, from 1 to 5, with funds being released for high scoring applications.
- Serious erosion and structural defects will be prioritised above cleaning and re-lettering.
- Applications from local communities with Council support and match funding will carry greater weight.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate there is a plan in place for the future maintenance of refurbishment memorials.

4.3 Two groups in Highland currently have bids to the War Memorials Trust nearing completion. One for the Brora memorial being for £30k of grant funding.

4.4 The need to obtain competitive quotations has caused delay to the submissions by the local groups. Where feasible an increase in Officer support is being made to assist in submission of competent bids.

4.4 Two community groups have also made grant applications to the Armed Forces Community Covenant with help from Ward Managers. However the Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund has now confirmed War Memorials do not meet the criteria for funding.

4.5 Grant aid is generally not available for routine maintenance. A sustainable maintenance plan, developed by the Council, will be required for each submission.

4.6 It is anticipated that local community and Council bids to the War Memorials Trust and other external funding sources will achieve approximately one third of the funding requirements from para 3.3. The shortfall will be approximately £200k or £50k per annum over the four years 2014/15 to 2017/18.

5. Implications

5.1 The estimated cost to complete all the works identified is £310k. The financial implications are a cost to the Council of £200k, with £110k estimated from external sources. This report seeks funding of up to £50k per year over the four years from 2014/15 to 2017/18 from the Capital Discretionary Fund.

5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.3 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

5.4 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5.5 There are no climate change implications arising for this report.

Recommendation

Members are invited to provide up to £50,000 per year over the four years from 2014/15 to 2017/18 from the Capital Discretionary Fund to support the refurbishment of our War Memorials, in recognition of the centenary of the First World War. This funding will allow the Council to make bids for additional funding from the Scottish Government's Centenary Memorial Restoration Fund.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Date: 10 January 2014

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