

COMMITTEE: Musselburgh Common Good Committee

MEETING DATE: Thursday 12th March 2026

BY:

REPORT TITLE: Silver Arrow

REPORT STATUS: Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from members to make annual provision within the Musselburgh Common Good Fund to provide funding for the annual Silver Arrow event.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve building into the base line budget for the Musselburgh Common Good Fund an amount of £5,000 per annum to support the Musselburgh Silver Arrows, which amount is to be reviewed annually through the Musselburgh Common Good Budget development and approval process.
- 2.2 Note that the provision set in 2.1 would be reviewed annually thereafter through the budget development and setting process for the Musselburgh Common Good Fund.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Silver Arrow is one of Scotland's oldest and most storied archery trophies, with origins tracing back to the early 17th century. First awarded in 1603, the prize became associated with Musselburgh after the Royal Company of Archers—later recognised as the Sovereign's Bodyguard in Scotland—took up the tradition and relocated the shoot to the town in the late 1600s. The Musselburgh Silver Arrow, first recorded in 1603, is celebrated as one of the world's oldest sporting trophies and is still contested annually by the Royal Company of Archers at Musselburgh

Racecourse and the adjacent Musselburgh Links, one of the oldest golf courses in the world. The event forms part of Musselburgh's wider civic and cultural life, with local festival figures such as the Honest Lad and Honest Lass traditionally attending the shoot, reflecting its integration into the town's long-standing festival traditions. It remains a colourful ceremonial occasion involving parades through the town by the Royal Company exercising their historic rights as Freemen of the Burgh.

- 3.2 Over the centuries, the annual competition has blended ceremonial splendour with sporting prestige, with winners historically receiving not only the Silver Arrow but also the honour of adding their own medallion to its ribbons. Today, the Musselburgh Silver Arrow remains a living link to Scotland's heritage, celebrated for its continuity, pageantry, and deep historical importance to the town.
- 3.3 Officers appreciate the historical and cultural significance of the Silver Arrow to Musselburgh, and it is important to retain the legacy. The absence of the Silver Arrows during COVID-19 pandemic was felt and fortunately the event has continued after the pandemic.
- 3.4 At present the Silver Arrow receives support from a number of different sources which results in a varying degree of annual support being requested from the Common Good. The amount of provided over the last few years have fluctuated from £75.00 through to £4,050.00.
- 3.5 It is therefore requested that there is an annual budgetary provision made within the Musselburgh Common Good of £5,000 per annum to be reviewed annually when developing the Musselburgh Common Good budget.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: The funding would be taken directly from the Musselburgh Common Good Fund
- 5.2 Human Resources: None
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None
- 5.4 Risk: None

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken, and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix A – Sets out the historical timeline

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

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Date	04 March 2026

Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnett
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Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	
Approval Date	04.03.2026