



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMON GOOD COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY 27 JANUARY, 10AM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON
AND VIA HYBRID MEETING FACILITY**

1

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Akhtar
Councillor Allan (remote)
Councillor Bennett (remote)
Councillor Cassini (remote)
Councillor Collins (remote)
Councillor Forrest
Councillor Hampshire
Councillor McFarlane
Councillor McGuire
Councillor McIntosh (remote)
Councillor McMillan – Convener

Council Officials Present:

Mr I Forrest, Solicitor
Carlo Grilli, Service Manager - Governance
Matthew Conlon, Interim Principal Accountant
Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager – North Berwick
Scott McKail, Connected Communities Manager - Musselburgh
Justine Wishart, Community Development Officer
Tanya Murray, Principal Solicitor
Elizabeth Gibson, Council Resources (observing)
Mrs M Scott, Clerk

Apologies:

Councillor Findlay
Councillor Jardine
Councillor Trotter

Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Forrest declared an interest in items 4c, 4d, 4f and 4g.

Transparency Statements:

Councillor McMillan made a statement to make Members aware he was a Council's Veterans Champion and was until recently a member of the Scout Committee, is a Rotarian and sits on the board of Enjoy Leisure but confirmed he had no direct connection with any of the applications.

The Convener advised that the meeting was being held as a hybrid meeting, as provided for in legislation; that the meeting would be recorded and live streamed; and that it would be made available via the Council's website as a webcast, in order to allow public access to the democratic process in East Lothian. He noted that the Council was the data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018; that data collected as part of the recording would be retained in accordance with the Council's policy on record retention; and that the webcast of the meeting would be publicly available for five years from the date of the meeting.

The clerk recorded the attendance of Members by roll call.

1. MINUTES OF THE COMMON GOOD COMMITTEE 4 SEPTEMBER 2025 FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the Common Good Committee 13 November 2025 were approved.

2. COMMON GOOD BUDGET UPDATE

Matthew Conlon, Interim Principal Accountant presented his report to Committee which highlighted the grant and repairs and maintenance positions against the Common Good budget as of December 2025. He drew Members attention to the £74,296 worth of expenditure against the grants budget, £75,132 of expenditure against the overall repairs budget, the expenditure associated with St Margaret's Clubhouse at Winterfield Golf Club and drew out the rules around the scheme of administration.

Mr Conlon answered questions from Members. He agreed to look at implementing further data relating to income to the Common Good funds for future reports, confirmed that a new budget would be available to all Common Good funds on the 1st of April 2026 and stated any number of proposals could be made in regard to the individual Common Good budgets, which would then have to be taken through the natural process and voted on.

Decision

Members were happy to note the report.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Committee agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

PRIVATE

3. SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS

A summary of Common Good applications was provided to Committee.

4. APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) Veterans of North Berwick

The North Berwick Veterans submitted an application for £1000 for the Commando Run. Mr Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager – North Berwick provided some background information on the organisation and details of the event. He noted the

organisers had already been working with officers in event planning and landscape and countryside, have arranged a SAG meeting for the event and have engaged Blast Running Limited who are an organisation with experience of planning road races such as this one.

Mr Haig responded to questions from Members, confirming there is hope if the event is successful that it could become an annual event, and he did believe the event would be extremely popular so if the application was successful organisers would need to be mindful of this.

Mr Haig noted his colleagues did not believe the Common Good was the correct place for this application as it may set a future precedent and although starting and finishing in North Berwick was perhaps not to the benefit of the town. Discussion took place between Members around the competency checks of applications and the possibility of implementing a condition if the application was successful. It was confirmed by the Solicitor that conditions could not be added when supporting a grant.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application noting their support for the event and the likelihood of its success meaning it may not require funding in the future. They also noted the spectacular route of the run and the potential economic benefit to the town as the event will attract many visitors. Members also commented on the positive steps taken by organisers to engage with Council officers and the Safety Advisory Group.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application. Members voted to unanimously support the application in full.

Decision

The Committee agreed, by unanimous decision, to award the full amount of £1,000.

b) North Berwick Rotary Club

An application was submitted by North Berwick Rotary Club for £7,000 for the North Berwick View of the Past Exhibition. Mr Haig noted the North Berwick Community Council were generally supportive of the application but felt they were looking for too much as the overall proposal was for over £8,000 with the Rotary Club contributing just over £1,000.

Mr Haig responded to questions, confirming the local museum or library were unable to host the event due to other commitments and he was not aware of the applicant seeking funding from anywhere else.

The remaining balance for the North Berwick Common Good fund was confirmed and Committee discussed the application. A proposal was made to grant the remaining balance to the applicant as there was not enough money left within the budget to grant in full, which was seconded.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote on granting the original sum of £7,000 which would then take the grant over budget, requiring a report to Council to amend the budget or on the amended proposal of granting £2,844.08 to the applicant. Members voted unanimously to award a partial grant of £2,844.08.

Decision

The Committee agreed, unanimously to grant a partial award of £2,844.08 due to insufficient funds being available within the budget.

[Councillor Forrest left the meeting]

c) Musselburgh Athletic Football Club

Musselburgh Athletic Football Club submitted an application for £35,240 towards new fencing around the pitch. Mr Scott McKail, Connected Communities Manager – Musselburgh provided further information on the application and highlighted the football club have offered 20 free adult and child tickets to Musselburgh Grammar and also engaged with Loretto, Queen Margaret University and the Burgh Primary School. The club have also been working with East Lothian Food Bank and agreed to do collection days which they are piloting at their next home fixture, have a new SFA football Chaplin and a club charity partner in Young Lives vs Cancer. He noted the club had not yet sought permissions from ELC for building warrants and they were planning a meeting with the SFA to seek match funding for floodlights. Mr McKail stated the Musselburgh and Inveresk Community Council declined to offer feedback.

Following questions from Members, the Solicitor noted formal conditions could not be imposed when granting the application, but the Clerk explained on decision letter it clearly states if a project cannot go ahead then the money would have to be returned to the Common Good. He also made Members aware they were only making a decision on the ask for £35,240 today and not the other £30,000 mentioned within the application, this would have to be sought through a further application in the next financial year.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application, noting the new fencing would allow the club to meet SFA guidelines, increase capacity which could increase ticket sales and allow more revenue for the club and the work the club does for itself and the community.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application. Members voted to unanimously support the application in full.

Decision

The Committee agreed, by unanimous decision, to award the full amount of £35,240.

[Sederunt – Councillor McMillan rejoined the meeting]

d) 9th Musselburgh Guides

9th Musselburgh Guides submitted an application for £2,300 to purchase tents and camping fridges for their trip to the Poacher Jamboree. Mr McKail added that although the items are being purchased to support the attendance for the Jamboree, the benefit would be sustained beyond the single event.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application noting the benefit of the purchased items for the current group of guides but also for many future children joining over the years and the fundraising the guides have been doing to raise money to attend the event. However, Members did question the competency of the application due to there not being a benefit to all of the Musselburgh Community, which has been raised as an issue in the past with other applications and asked for updated versions of the boundary maps for Musselburgh. Members and officers agreed to take both of those discussions offline.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application. Members voted to unanimously support the application in full.

Decision

The Committee agreed, by unanimous decision, to award the full amount of £2,300.

[Sederunt – Councillor Forrest rejoined the meeting]

e) Changes

Changes submitted an application for £1844.78 - £3203.21 for welcome pack promotional items. Mr Mckail explained two costs were given due to their being quotes for lower and higher cost items which were all listed within the application, including t-shirts.

Mr McKail answered questions from Members, confirming if the applicant received the lower funding, they would adjust the number of welcome packs they made, and that the money was being asked to make promotional packs explaining what Changes does and not for a specific event Changes was hosting.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application highlighting the great work Changes does and how supportive Members were of their work however, they felt spending the money on tote bags and t-shirts would not be a good use of public funds as no good quality conversations would be able to happen with people handing these out at busy community events and they would rather grant money for Changes to be able to deliver services.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application, if Members were minded to support a second roll call vote would be carried out to determine the amount. Members voted to unanimously reject the application.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to reject the application.

[Sederunt - Councillor Forrest left the meeting]

f) Stoneyhill Playgroup

Stoneyhill Playgroup submitted an application for £8,350 for sensory play equipment, training and pilot child care scheme costs.

The remaining balance for Musselburgh Common Good was confirmed as £19,569.91. The Common Good Committee discussed the application noting the investment would help provide an important link in the childcare ecosystem in Musselburgh, opens up employment opportunities for the local community and will offer work experience to young people at secondary school.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application. Members voted to unanimously support the application in full.

Decision

The Committee agreed, by unanimous decision, to award the full amount of £8,350.

g) 1st Musselburgh Scouts

1st Musselburgh Scouts submitted an application for £10,500 to attend the Poachers International Jamboree. Mr McKail noted an amendment to the application as the group had successfully raised £1,900, therefore the new application amount was £8.600. He confirmed this amount would be prorated amongst all attendees to allow them to attend the event.

Mr McKail responded to questions from Members stating the money was to subsidise the cost for children to attend the event whereas the cost for the Guides to attend was being fully borne by parents and families. It was confirmed there had not been a previous application submitted to the Common Good asking to cover costs to attend an event, but the application had been deemed competent. Mr McKail also made Members aware the Scouts have applied to the Musselburgh Area Partnership and in terms of evidence of need, three parents had confirmed they would not be able to send their child due to cost.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application noting it did not benefit the wider community of Musselburgh as the money was only for the Scouts attending this one trip and that the Scouts did not seem to have completed any fundraising for the event. Members also raised concerns granting the application would set a precedent of applications coming in to fund trips however, one felt that it would not be fair not to grant the Scouts any money when the Guides application was granted.

A roll call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application, if Members were minded to support a second roll call vote would be carried out to determine the amount. Members voted, by majority decision, to reject the application.

Cllr Akhtar – Support
Cllr Allan – Support
Cllr Bennett – Abstain
Cllr Cassini – Reject
Cllr Collins – Reject
Cllr Hampshire – Reject
Cllr McFarlane – Support
Cllr McGuire – Support
Cllr McIntosh – Reject
Cllr McMillan -Reject

Decision

The Committee agreed, by majority decision, to reject the application.

[Councillor Forrest rejoined the meeting]

h) Enjoy Leisure

Enjoy Leisure submitted an application for £2,162.11 for a one off purchase of essential equipment to enhance the swim and gymnastics programmes in Musselburgh.

There were no questions on the application.

The Common Good Committee discussed the application and were extremely supportive, noting the benefits to both mental and physical health and incredible value for money.

A call vote was taken where Members were asked to vote whether to grant the application in full or reject the application. Members voted unanimously to grant the application in full.

Decision

The Committee agreed, by unanimous decision, to award the full amount of £2,162,11.

Signed
Councillor John McMillan
Chair of the Common Good Committee

COMMITTEE:	Common Good Committee
MEETING DATE:	12 March 2026
BY:	Depute Chief Executive Resources and Economy
REPORT TITLE:	Common Good Budget Update February 2026
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the grants and repairs/maintenance budget positions for each of the Common Good areas.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the current position in relation to the grants budget and repairs/maintenance budget for each of the Common Good areas; and
- 2.2 Take account of fund balances when considering applications for grant funding.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2025/26 Common Good budgets were set by Council in April 2025, with the budgets for grants and repairs/maintenance as follows:
- Dunbar: Grants - £4,000; Repairs/maintenance - £5,000
 - Haddington: Grants - £10,000; Repairs/maintenance - £12,000
 - Musselburgh: Grants - £112,000; Repairs/maintenance - £70,000
 - North Berwick: Grants - £10,000; Repairs/maintenance - £10,000
- 3.2 The summaries for each Common Good area in terms of income & expenditure can be found detailed in the attached appendices.

- 3.3 Finance colleagues are working alongside Estates colleagues to finalise rent entries for 2025/26 ahead of year-end.
- 3.4 Other Income, namely Interest and Investment Income and Dividend Income, and Other Premises Costs, namely Depreciation charges, will be largely affected by year-end entries.
- 3.5 In Dunbar Common Good, within the overall expenditure of £45,154 there are £34,809 of costs associated with bringing St Margarets Club House up to an appropriate standard before Winterfield Golf Club took on the lease for the Club House and the course itself. This cost is partially offset by UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies of £23,289.
- 3.6 In accordance with the Scheme of Administration, the Committee has the authority to award a grant of up to £50,000, provided there are sufficient funds within the budget for that area. Should funding in excess of £50,000 be recommended, then the Committee will put forward a recommendation to the Head of Communities, who, in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer, will prepare a report to Council, and that it will be for the Council to determine the allocation of funding, and any required variation of the approved budget.
- 3.7 In line with the approved standing orders, the 2026/27 Common Good budgets will be submitted to and approved by Council.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: Outlined within this report and supporting appendices
- 5.2 Human Resources: None
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None
- 5.4 Risk: None

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The subject of this report has been considered and given there is no change in policy direction, there is no requirement to undertake any further impact assessment.

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Common Good Income & Expenditure.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Common Good Grant Expenditure & Commitments

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 East Lothian Council Standing Orders: Scheme of Administration
- 8.2 Report to East Lothian Council, 29 April 2025: Common Good Budget 2025/26

9 AUTHOR DETAILS

Name	Matthew Conlon
Designation	Interim Principal Accountant
Tel/Email	mconlon@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	03/03/2026

Appendix 1

Common Good Income & Expenditure

Common Good Income & Expenditure to Feb 2026	Dunbar Common Good			North Berwick Common Good			Musselburgh Common Good			Haddington Common Good			Consolidated Common Good		
	Budget £	Actual £	Remaining £	Budget £	Actual £	Remaining £	Budget £	Actual £	Remaining £	Budget £	Actual £	Remaining £	Budget £	Actual £	Remaining £
Income															
Rents	-14,000	-800	13,200	-38,000	-36,682	1,318	-219,000	-143,471	75,529	-27,000	0	27,000	-298,000	-180,953	117,047
Other Income	-1,000	-23,289	-22,289	-4,000	0	4,000	-78,000	0	78,000	-2,000	0	2,000	-85,000	-23,289	61,711
Total Income	-15,000	-24,089	-9,089	-42,000	-36,682	5,318	-297,000	-143,471	153,529	-29,000	0	29,000	-383,000	-204,242	178,758
Expenditure															
Repairs	5,000	45,154	40,154	10,000	110	-9,890	70,000	34,961	-35,039	12,000	0	-12,000	97,000	80,226	-16,774
Grants	4,000	3,250	-750	10,000	6,156	-3,844	112,000	54,890	-57,110	10,000	10,000	0	136,000	74,296	-61,704
Other Premises Costs	30,000	0	-30,000	6,000	5,129	-871	91,000	41,143	-49,857	0	0	0	127,000	46,272	-80,728
Other Expenditure	4,000	477	-3,523	9,000	490	-8,510	298,000	262,749	-35,251	1,000	480	-520	312,000	264,196	-47,804
Total Expenditure	43,000	48,882	5,882	35,000	11,886	-23,114	571,000	393,743	-177,257	23,000	10,480	-12,520	672,000	464,990	-207,010
Net Total	28,000	24,793	-3,207	-7,000	-24,796	-17,796	274,000	250,272	-23,728	-6,000	10,480	16,480	289,000	260,748	-28,252

Appendix 2

Grant Expenditure & Commitments

Applicant	Common Good	Amount Awarded (£)
The Ridge	DCG	3,250.00
Nungate Gala	HCG	4,000.00
Lower Impact Living	HCG	675.00
Haddington CIC (boxing club)	HCG	4,445.00
Haddstock	HCG	880.00
Honest Toun Association	MCG	15,000.00
Musselburgh Congregational Church	MCG	20,000.00
Musselburgh Community Pantry	MCG	5,890.09
Fisherrow Trust	MCG	14,000.00
Fringe by the Sea	NBCG	4,000.00
NB Community Council	NBCG	2,155.92
NB Veterans	NBCG	1,000.00
NB Rotary Club	NBCG	2,844.08
Musselburgh Athletic Football Club	MCG	35,240.00
9th Musselburgh guides	MCG	2,300.00
Stoneyhill Play Group	MCG	8,350.00
Enjoy Leisure	MCG	2,162.11

Total Grant Commitments	126,192.20
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Grant Commitments to Feb 2026	Grant Budget £	Grant Spend to Date £	Grant Spend to Come £	Total Grant Spend £	Remaining Grant Budget £
Dunbar Common Good	4,000.00	3,250.00	0.00	3,250.00	750.00
North Berwick Common Good	10,000.00	6,155.92	3,844.08	10,000.00	0.00
Musselburgh Common Good	112,000.00	54,890.09	48,052.11	102,942.20	9,057.80
Haddington Common Good	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
Total	136,000.00	74,296.01	51,896.19	126,192.20	9,807.80

COMMITTEE:	Common Good Committee
MEETING DATE:	12 March 2026
BY:	Doug Haig, Connected Communities Manager
REPORT TITLE:	Antique Lamppost Restoration North Berwick Council Chambers
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present outline information on a proposal for the restoration of the antique Provost's lamppost in Quality Street North Berwick and seek approval for restoration.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve that the Connected Communities Manager for North Berwick Coastal ward engage with North Berwick Community Council and the BBC's Repair Shop tv show procedures to establish the feasibility and practicality of the lamppost outside the mothballed Council Chambers in North Berwick being restored as part of the 2026 Christmas Special and;
- 2.2 Give consent for the proposed restoration work to be undertaken.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The BBC approached East Lothian Council in February 2026 looking for potential community projects to form part of the 2026 Christmas Special. The lamppost restoration proposal had been put forward to the show for consideration by North Berwick Community Council at approximately the same time.
- 3.2 The lamppost is an old Provost's lamp. These were traditionally placed outside town chambers and the house of the Provost at the time.

- 3.3 Estates advise that ownership of the lamppost is assumed under the North Berwick Burgh Charter by North Berwick Common Good.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: It is to be confirmed what the Repair Shop's financial contribution would be towards the restoration and upgrades may be. There is a power supply going to the lamppost, and the lamp is in working order. Common Good has a responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of properties and other items that appear on the Common Good Asset Register.

- 5.2 Human Resources: None.

- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): Road Services have advised that the correct permits for road or pavement closures/works will be required. Details of how to apply for these would be passed on to the show's producers, should the proposal proceed.

The Communications Team have stated that they will advise/support how to progress permissions and arrangements for filming if required.

- 5.4 Risk: There is a concern that damage could be caused to the post if trying to lift/remove it from the ground. Given its age, there is uncertainty as to how it's secured into the ground. Colleagues in Road Services have suggested that the most practical way to restore the lamppost may be to restore the post in situ but remove the lamp case for restoration and modernisation.

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Not applicable.

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	N/A
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	N/A
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	N/A
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	N/A
Storage/collection of personal data	N/A
Other	N/A

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Not applicable.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Not applicable.

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Doug Haig
Designation	Connected Communities Manager, North Berwick Coastal
Tel/Email	dhaig@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	4 March 2026

Head of Service Approval

Name	Eamon John
Designation	Head of Communities and Partnerships
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	
Approval Date	04/03/2026

COMMITTEE: Musselburgh Common Good Committee

MEETING DATE: Thursday 12th March 2026

BY:

REPORT TITLE: Musselburgh Festival

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 significant annual Musselburgh events.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve building into the base line budget for the Musselburgh Common Good Fund an amount of £25,000 per annum to support the Musselburgh Festival, 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 Musselburgh, often celebrated as Scotland's oldest continuously inhabited town, has a rich civic heritage shaped by centuries of community pride, royal association, and deeply rooted local traditions. Throughout its history, the town has balanced its strategic importance with a strong sense of identity built on loyalty, industriousness, and ceremonial custom. Among the many traditions that embody this spirit, two stand out for their longevity and cultural significance: the Silver Arrow archery competition, one of Scotland's oldest sporting prizes, and the

traditions of the Honest Toun and Riders of the Marches, which express Musselburgh's enduring commitment to civic duty and communal unity. Together, these customs form a vibrant narrative of a town that has preserved and celebrated its heritage across the centuries.

- 3.2 Musselburgh's identity as the "Honest Toun" is rooted in a 14th-century story in which the townspeople cared with integrity and loyalty for the wounded Regent Randolph, earning lasting royal praise. This spirit of communal honour is most vividly embodied in the Riders of the Marches, a centuries-old tradition connected to the inspection and safeguarding of Musselburgh's medieval boundaries. Originally a practical duty to ensure the town's lands had not been encroached upon, the custom evolved into a spectacular civic celebration held every twenty-one years. Featuring mounted riders, ceremonial roles, music, and public festivities, Riders of the Marches stands as one of Musselburgh's defining traditions—an enduring expression of civic pride, shared heritage, and community cohesion.
- 3.3 Adding to the town's rich tapestry of custom is the Musselburgh Festival. This is an annual celebration bringing together residents in a week of events, ceremonies, and entertainment. Rooted in community spirit, the festival showcases the town's traditions, youth, and cultural identity. Featuring processions, family events, sports, performances, and the crowning of festival representatives, it serves as a contemporary counterpart to Musselburgh's older customs. The Musselburgh Festival provides a platform for new generations to connect with the town's heritage while adding fresh vibrancy and creativity to the civic calendar. I have attached in appendix to this report a timeline of the key events relating to the Musselburgh Festival and Riding of the Marches.
- 3.4 Officers appreciate the historical and cultural significance of the Musselburgh Festival to residents of Musselburgh and in addition note this event also creates an economical benefit for Musselburgh businesses.
- 3.5 It is noted that the Council has continued to support the Musselburgh Festival and Riding of the Marches and while the next Riding of the Marches is scheduled to be held in 2037 the significance and importance of the Musselburgh Festival to residents in Musselburgh is such that officers consider this should continue to be supported by the Council through building in a an annual provision into the Musselburgh Common Good budget to support the continued operation of this event. Noting that on years where the Riding of the Marches occur the festival is assumed by that event and therefore would not be provided for within this budget. In 2016 the Common Good provided funding of £100,000 to support the last Riding of the Marches event.
- 3.6 The provision for the Musselburgh Festival would be available to the organisers of the event currently the Honest Toun Association. It is noted that since 2017 the support has been reduced from circa £50,000 to circa £25,000 in 2025. Officers would continue to work with the

organisers to ensure best value and that other funding options are also explored to support the festival. Officers would suggest for 2026/27 there is a provision of £25,000 built into the Musselburgh Common Good budget for the Musselburgh Festival and thereafter the actual amount would be agreed annually through the budget setting process for the Musselburgh Common Good Fund.

- 3.7 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. 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.

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)

Name	Carlo Grilli
Designation	Service Manager, Governance
Tel/Email	01620 827770

Name	Carlo Grilli
Date	04 March 2026

Head of Service Approval

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

Appendix 1

Historical Timeline - Musselburgh Festival & Riding of the Marches

1124

- Possible early origins of the ceremony connected to Musselburgh's first burgh charter granted by King David I, which later influenced boundary-marking traditions.

1544

- A fire at the Town House destroys early written records of the Riding of the Marches.

1682

- First surviving written documentation of Musselburgh's Riding of the Marches appears in Town Council minutes.

1732

- A famous dispute occurs between the weavers and tailors over precedence in the procession; the tailors ultimately prevail with help from the butchers.

1914

- The Riding of the Marches is cancelled due to the First World War.

1919

- A celebratory "Peace Riding" marks the end of the war; from this point the event begins to evolve into a week-long festival format later seen in modern times.

1935

- A landmark Riding of the Marches, held alongside King George V's Silver Jubilee, is celebrated as "the greatest ever."
- Inspired by its success, a group of local residents meet in Hercus Loan and found what becomes the Musselburgh Festival, intended to complement—not compete with—the 21-year Riding cycle.

1936

- The first formal Honest Toun Association celebrations take place, recorded in surviving film footage; the Honest Lad and Lass appear as festival principals.

1956

- The Queen Mother attends a special ceremony and presents the Turf Cutter with a ceremonial spade, marking a rare royal participation.

2016

- A full Riding of the Marches takes place, continuing the 21-year tradition; extensive local historical documentation highlights its ritual significance.

2037 (Future Scheduled Event)

- The next full Riding of the Marches is planned, maintaining the 21-year cycle.

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]

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