

COMMITTEE:	Common Good Committee
MEETING DATE:	19 May 2026
BY:	Depute Chief Executive – Resources & Economy
REPORT TITLE:	Common Good Budget Update March 2025
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 draft outturn position in relation to the grants budget and repairs/maintenance budget for each of the Common Good areas.

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. The position remains in draft further to accounting entries to be processed, referenced in section 3.3.

- 3.3 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. These will be processed in line with the ELC Accounts Timetable, and a further update can be brought to future committees.
- 3.4 In Dunbar Common Good, within the overall expenditure of £49,212 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.
- 3.5 In Haddington Common Good, repairs associated with the River Tyne Walkway have come in over budget, with costs of £33,000 against a budget of £12,000. This pressure has been offset by rental income associated with the Haddington Corn Exchange which has been confirmed to be a Common Good asset.
- 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 were approved at Council in April 2026.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications associated with this report, although ongoing monitoring and reporting of the Council's financial performance is a key part of the approved Financial Strategy.

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: As described above
- 5.2 Human Resources: None
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None
- 5.4 Risk: As described above

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 1 – Common Good Income & Expenditure – March 2026.

7.2 Appendix 2 – Common Good Grant Expenditure & Commitments – March 2026

7.3 Appendix 3 – Common Good Budget 2026-27

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
- 8.3 Report to East Lothian Council, 28 April 2026: Common Good Budget 2026/27

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Matthew Conlon
Designation	Interim Principal Accountant
Tel/Email	mconlon@eastlothian.gov.uk
Date	12 May 2026

Head of Service Approval

Name	Ellie Dunnet
Designation	Head of Finance
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	12 May 2026

Supporting Good Decisions

**Promoting Equality and Human Rights;
Reducing Poverty; and
Protecting the Environment**

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality and Human Rights; Reducing Poverty; and Protecting the Environment

Title of Policy/ Proposal	Common Good Budget Update
Timescale for Implementation	April 2026
IIA Completion Date	April 2026
Completed by	Matthew Conlon, Interim Principal Accountant
Lead officer	Ellie Dunnet, Head of Finance

Section 1: Screening

1.1 Briefly describe the policy/proposal/activity you are assessing.

This assessment is related to the 2025/26 budget positions for the four Common Goods, namely the expenditure associated with grant funding and repairs.

1.2 What will change as a result of this policy?

There are no direct changes as a result of this proposal as there are no policy implications.

1.3 Deciding if a full Impact Assessment is needed.

Please answer the following questions:

	Yes	No
1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people e.g. how they can access a service?		X
2. The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality and human rights, socio-economic disadvantage, the council's role as a corporate parent, children's rights, or the council's commitment to tackling climate change?		X
3. The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact as defined by the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005?		X
4. The policy/ proposal involves a data processing activity (storage / collection of personal data) that is likely to result in a high risk to individuals as determined by Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation?		X

- If you have answered yes to questions 1 and 2 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment. If you have answered No then an IIA does not need to be completed. Please keep a copy of the screening paperwork.
 - If you have answered yes to question 3, you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
 - If you have answered yes to question 4, you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment. Please seek further advice from the Team Manager Information Governance.
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Section 2: Integrated Impact Assessment

2.1 Have those who are directly affected by the policy had the opportunity to comment on new proposals?

2.2 What information/data have you used to inform the development of the policy to date?

2.3 What does the evidence/ research suggest about the policy's actual or likely impact on equality groups and those vulnerable/ or experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

Evidence	Comment
Which groups are in particular need of this service?	
What level of service uptake/ access is there from protected and vulnerable groups?	
Can you identify positive outcomes for service users	
What is the service user experience of those from protected or vulnerable groups?	
What opportunity have those from protected groups had to co-produce or comment on the service/ plans?	

2.4 How does the policy meet the different needs of groups in the community? Please note that where children will be affected by the policy or activity a **Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact assessment must additionally be completed. [Children’s Rights and Well-being Impact Assessment - completion guidance and template | East Lothian Intranet](#)**

Equality Groups	Comments
Older people, people in the middle years	
Children and young people children	
Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity)	
Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems)	
Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers)	
Refugees and asylum seekers	
People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief)	
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people	
People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership	
<p>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • People on benefits • Lone Parents • Care experienced children and young people 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers (including young carers) • Homeless people • Those involved in the community justice system • People with low literacy/numeracy • Families with 3 or more children • Those with a child/ children under 1 	
<p>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi rural communities • Urban Communities • Coastal communities • Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas) 	
<p>People with communication needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelic Language Speakers {refer if necessary to the Council’s Gaelic Language Plan} • British Sign Language (BSL) users {refer if necessary to the Council’s BSL Plan} • English as a Second Language • Other e.g. Deafblind, Plain English, Large Print 	

2.5 Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?

2.6 Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?
 If yes, how have you included equality and human rights considerations into the contract?

2.7 Have you considered how you will communicate information about this policy or policy change to those affected e.g. to those with hearing loss, speech impairment or English as a second language?

2.8 Please consider how your policy will impact on each of the following?

Equality and Human rights

- Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services
- Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment
- Promotes participation, is inclusive and gives people control over decisions which affect them
- Preserves dignity and self-respect of individuals (does not lead to degrading treatment or stigma)
- Builds support networks, resilience, community capacity

Comments:

Socio-Economic Disadvantage / reducing poverty

- Maximises income and/or reduces income inequality
- Helps young people into positive destinations
- Aids those returning to and those progressing within the labour market
- Improves employability skills, including literacy and numeracy
- Reduces the costs of taking part in activities and opportunities
- Reduces the cost of living

Comments :

Tackling Climate Change

- Reduces the need to travel or increases access to sustainable forms of transport
- Minimises waste / encourages resource efficiency / contributes to the circular economy
- Ensures goods / services are from ethical, responsible and sustainable sources
- Improves energy efficiency / uses low carbon energy sources
- Protects and/or enhances natural environments / habitats / biodiversity
- Promotes the transition to a low carbon economy
- Prepares and/or adapts communities for climate change impacts

Comments:

Corporate Parenting and Care Experienced Young People

- Impacts on care experienced young people
- Provides opportunities or reduces opportunities to participate in activities which are designed to promote the wellbeing of young people
- Adversely affects the wellbeing of young people
- Adversely impacts on outcomes for care experienced young people

Comments:

Section 3. Action Plan

What, if any changes will be made to the proposal/ policy as a result of the assessment?

Changes to be made	Expected outcome of the change	Resources Required	Timeline	Responsible person

For consideration of the Head of Service

Can you identify any cumulative impacts on equality groups or vulnerable people arising from this policy, when considered alongside other changes across other services?

Sign off by Head of Service

Name:

Date:

Appendix 1

Common Good Income & Expenditure

Common Good Income & Expenditure to March 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	-24,632	-10,632	-38,000	-48,926	-10,926	-219,000	-289,441	-70,441	-27,000	-88,514	-61,514	-298,000	-451,513	-153,513
Other Income	-1,000	-6,481	-5,481	-4,000	0	4,000	-78,000	0	78,000	-2,000	0	2,000	-85,000	-6,481	78,519
Total Income	-15,000	-31,113	-16,113	-42,000	-48,926	-6,926	-297,000	-289,441	7,559	-29,000	-88,514	-59,514	-383,000	-457,994	-74,994
Expenditure															
Repairs	5,000	49,212	44,212	10,000	110	-9,890	70,000	29,597	-40,403	12,000	32,763	20,763	97,000	111,682	14,682
Grants	4,000	3,250	-750	10,000	10,000	0	112,000	112,000	0	10,000	10,000	0	136,000	135,250	-750
Other Premises Costs	30,000	0	-30,000	6,000	5,129	-871	91,000	43,686	-47,314	0	0	0	127,000	48,815	-78,185
Other Expenditure	4,000	4,486	486	9,000	5,311	-3,689	298,000	303,379	5,379	1,000	1,746	746	312,000	314,922	2,922
Total Expenditure	43,000	56,948	13,948	35,000	20,550	-14,450	571,000	488,662	-82,338	23,000	44,509	21,509	672,000	610,669	-61,331
Net Total	28,000	25,835	-2,165	-7,000	-28,376	-21,376	274,000	199,221	-74,779	-6,000	-44,005	-38,005	289,000	152,675	-136,325

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
Chris Ewing Karate	MCG	4,788.37
Honest Toun's Association	MCG	4,269.43

Total Grant Commitments	135,250.00
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Grant Commitments to March 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	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
Musselburgh Common Good	112,000.00	112,000.00	0.00	112,000.00	0.00
Haddington Common Good	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
Total	136,000.00	135,250.00	0.00	135,250.00	750.00

Appendix 3
2026/27 Common Good Budgets

	Consolidated Common Good	Dunbar Common Good	Haddington Common Good	Musselburgh Common Good	North Berwick Common Good
	Approved Budget 2026/27 £000	Approved Budget 2026/27 £000	Approved Budget 2026/27 £000	Approved Budget 2026/27 £000	Approved Budget 2026/27 £000
Expenditure					
Premises - Repairs & Maintenance	59	6	3	40	10
Premises - Rates	46	0	0	40	6
Supplies & Services	309	6	1	298	4
Grants	159	4	20	120	15
Specific Grants	30	0	0	30	0
Depreciation	95	35	0	51	9
Total Expenditure	698	51	24	579	44
Income					
Rents & Other Income	-412	-14	-77	-275	-46
Herdmannflat Income	-19	0	-19	0	0
Investment Income (inc realised gains and losses on sale of investments) *	-2	0	0	-2	0
Interest/Dividend income *	-172	-2	-10	-150	-10
Total Income	-605	-16	-106	-427	-56
Net Deficit for the year	93	35	-82	152	-12