

## **LORD PROVOST'S TRUST FUNDS.**

Glasgow, 2nd July 2018.

- Present: Lord Provost Councillor Eva Bolander (Chair); Martin Booth, Executive Director of Finance and Carole Forrest, Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council.
- Apologies: Councillor Maureen Burke and Bailie Glenn Elder.
- Attending: D Brand (Clerk); E Galletly, Chief Executive's Department; C Innes, Advisor to Lord Provost; and Morag Johnson, Director of Financial and Business Services.

### **Funeral costs – Proposals approved – Instructions to Director of Financial and Business Services.**

1 With reference to the minutes of 11th May 2018 instructing officers to develop detailed governance around disbursement of the funds for funeral poverty and for these proposals to be brought to the Trustees for approval, there was submitted a report by the Director of Financial and Business Services regarding the administration of the funds for funeral poverty, advising

- (1) of the average costs of the different types of funerals which involved the services of a funeral director, including this Council's Land and Environmental Services Bereavement Services direct costs for various types of funeral as detailed in the report;
- (2) of the assistance currently available from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), through their Social Fund, for people on low income who were receiving certain benefits, and of the other organisations who could assist with funeral related costs as detailed in the report;
- (3) that Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants were currently available to vulnerable citizens through the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF), but that there was no provision for financial assistance for funeral costs;
- (4) that the Lord Provost's Fund for Vulnerable Citizens (LPFVC) had confirmed it will accept the donation of £100,000 from the Council and would ensure appropriate governance was put in place to administer the fund and in accordance with the requirement for charitable trusts;
- (5) that as the SWF team members had particular skills and expertise in dealing with vulnerable citizens seeking support, it was proposed to expand the remit of this team to signpost citizens seeking financial assistance for funerals to the LPFVC,

- (6) that each application would be approved subject to compliance with the governance set out in the report, and agreed limits;
- (7) of the potential qualifying criteria and publicity of the fund as detailed in the report; and
- (8) of the various costing options which had been considered to determine the best value utilisation of this fund as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Trustees

- (a) approved
  - (i) the award of the funeral payment to be administered through the Lord Provost's Fund for Vulnerable Citizens, using the established routes along with the added signposting and application submission by the SWF team as detailed in the report;
  - (ii) the qualifying criteria as detailed in the report; and
  - (iii) the value of the award to be set at £500 as a contribution towards funeral costs;
- (b) noted that
  - (A) awards would be reported to each meeting in line with current arrangements; and
  - (B) Scottish Government were considering funeral poverty; and
- (c) instructed the Director of Financial and Business Services to bring back a report in a year with an assessment of how the fund had performed, and any impact in relation to Scottish Government policy on funeral poverty.

### **Households affected by Glasgow School of Art fire – Proposals approved – Instructions to Director of Financial and Business Services.**

**2** There was tabled a report by the Director of Financial and Business Services regarding the households displaced due to the recent Glasgow School of Art fire, advising

- (1) that it was proposed that one-off financial support of £3,000 would be provided to each household who had to leave their homes as a direct result of the fire at the Mackintosh building and could not currently access their homes due to the safety cordon which had been put in place around the building;
- (2) the Lord Provost's Trust Fund for Vulnerable Citizens had been identified as a possible route to hold the monies in trust and oversee the payment of such funds, as detailed in the report;

- (3) of the proposed governance arrangements to manage and disburse funds as detailed in the report;
- (4) that reports would be provided to future meetings on the number and value of payments made.

After consideration, the Trustees

- (a) accepted the donation in trust for the purpose of disbursement to those households directly affected by the Glasgow School of Art fire; and
- (b) instructed the Director of Financial and Business Services to
  - (i) advise officers to implement appropriate governance as outlined in the report; and
  - (ii) arrange for a statement to be given to the press and a statement to be published on the Council's website regarding the Trust's support to those citizens displaced due to the required safety cordon around the Mackintosh building.

**Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting of the Lord Provost's Trust Funds was scheduled for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. As this falls during the Glasgow European Championships 2018, the Trustees agreed that an alternative date for the meeting would be arranged, and this date would be communicated once agreed.