

# COMMON GOOD FUND

Year ended 31 March 2006

Restated 2004/2005 £000	Revenue Account	Notes	2005/06 £000
1,118	Expenditure		150
<u>(1,174)</u>	Income		<u>(415)</u>
<u>(56)</u>	Surplus for Year		<u>(265)</u>
<b>Balance Sheet at 31 March 2006</b>			
1,803	Fixed Assets	1	1,803
1	Investments		1
<u>1,457</u>	Net Current Assets		<u>1,696</u>
<u>3,261</u>	Net Assets		<u>3,500</u>
Represented by:			
1,797	Fixed Asset Restatement Account	1	1,797
(15)	Capital Financing Account		(15)
1,442	Common Good Fund		1,501
37	Disabled Access Grants Reserve		11
<u>0</u>	Fit For Future Earmarked Fund		<u>206</u>
<u>3,261</u>			<u>3,500</u>

## Notes to the Accounts

### 1. Fixed Assets

#### 1.1 Movement of Fixed Assets

	Community Assets £000	Investment Properties £000	Total £000
Balance per Balance Sheet 31 March 2005	1,319	484	1,803
Revaluations and Restatements	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance per Balance Sheet 31 March 2006	<u>1,319</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>1,803</u>

#### 1.2 Information on Assets Held

The fixed assets owned by the Common Good Fund include the following approximate numbers at 31 March 2006:-

Community Assets -

Monuments and Other Activities	2
Parks and Open Spaces	6

Non Operational Assets -

Shops, Industrial Units and other Commercial Lettings	17
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#### 1.3 Fixed Asset Restatement Account

	£000
Balance as at 1 April 2005	1,797
Revaluation and Restatement	<u>0</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2006	<u>1,797</u>

## **COMMON GOOD FUND**

### **Year ended 31 March 2006**

The Common Good Fund stands separate from the Council's accounts and has been described as "the ancient patrimony of the community". It was originally derived from the grants by the Sovereigns of Scotland at various times. The present fund is an amalgam of the funds of the City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh and the Royal Burgh of South Queensferry.

A report on the (Edinburgh) Common Good prepared by the Town Clerk and City Chamberlain in 1905 set out the historical background of the fund and listed its then assets in some detail. The report also stated a "General Principle" that the Fund should be administered "for the purpose of upholding the dignity and suitable hospitality of the City; performing the duties incumbent upon a Royal Burgh ..... maintaining the municipal establishment and managing the municipal affairs; vindicating or extending the corporate rights of the community and defending its interests; acquiring additional land or property for the corporate benefit, or improving existing corporation property, and generally for any purpose which in the bona fide judgement of the Town Council is for the good of the community as a whole, or in which the inhabitants at large may share, as distinct from the separate interests or benefit of any particular individual or class, however deserving or needy. The purpose must be limited to those which concern the City and its interests".

The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 confirms this interpretation that use of the Fund shall "... have regard to the interests of all the inhabitants" of the area.

Several years ago the Council agreed, as a matter of policy, that, in the event of the Fund making a surplus, 50% of the annual surplus be added to the fund and that the remaining 50% be made available in the form of grants to improve access to public buildings for people with disabilities. This arrangement was suspended after consideration by the Council's Executive at its meeting of 15 February 2005.

The market value of investments at 31 March 2006 was £nil (2005 £nil).