

Smeaton Opencast Coal Fund**Report by Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

To update the Members on the progress made by the Local Members in relation to the Trust Fund arising from the Smeaton Opencast Coal site.

2 Background

On 21 May 2013, the General Purposes Committee agreed to remit to the Chair and Members for the Smeaton area, consideration of ways in which the balance remaining in the Smeaton Fund could be used to best advantage and to report back.

As previously reported, a residual balance of £1,402.37 remains and it is possible that funds could be earmarked for environmental improvement in the vicinity for works to the Walkway at that location. There is no Sub Committee for this Opencast.

There have been no other requests for assistance. Following consultation with the Land Services Manager, a site visit for the Local Members took place on 2 September 2013, after which it was agreed to recommend that the balance remaining in the Fund be committed to the purchase of two metal benches costing £800 each, sited east equidistantly between the school campus and the boundary of Midlothian and East Lothian.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

The resource implications ie the cost of the benches arising from this report should be met from the provision in the funds. Any expenditure from the Trust Funds requires the approval of the General Purposes Committee. The Council is the sole arbiter.

3.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value

v ☐ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

None

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

None

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

None

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

None

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Yes

3.9 IT Issues

None

4 Summary

Consideration requires to be given to the approach to be taken to the disbursement of funds to secure the closure of the Fund if thought appropriate.

5 Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the recommendation that the remaining balance in the Fund be committed to the provision of two metal benches on the walkway near Smeaton.

3 September 2013

Report Contact:

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Background Papers: none

Declaration Box

Instructions: *This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

Title of Report:

Meeting Presented to:

Author of Report:

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☐ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☐ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.