

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 30 January 2008

Subject: Update – Grants Working Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the grants working group, which has met twice since the last Committee

2. Background

- 2.1** The Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 27 June 2007 agreed to set up a short-term grants working group tasked with reviewing the current process. The aim of the group was to reduce bureaucracy surrounding the grants, as well as identify initiatives to help the longer term sustainability of the Council's grants budget.
- 2.2** The group was also tasked with reviewing and approving appropriate grant applications on behalf of the Committee, through delegated authority.
- 2.3** The group's membership includes nominated Members from the Committee, officers and representation from West Dunbartonshire C.V.S.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** In the current year, the balance in the grants budget is £47.79. A number of grants (totalling £83,439) have been referred to the grants working group meetings of 11 December 2007 and 14 January 2008.
- 3.2** A number of these grant applications are for funding organisations which will be relying on Council funding to remain active in 2007/08. Where possible, funding has been secured outwith the 2007/08 grants budget. However, for the majority of the applications this was not possible.
- 3.3** A report is being presented to Council on 30 January 2008 requesting funding of £75,000 to be vired to the grants budget from departmental budgets to allow grant funding to be available to those organisations assessed by the grants working group for funding in 2007/08. If this funding is made available, the grants totalling £18,136 would require to be paid from the budget then available, with £53,827 continued for further information.
- 3.4** The working group has also discussed the position of the grants budget regarding long term sustainability. This comes from the increasing pressure the budget is under with increasing numbers of organisations requesting funding, as well as funding requests increasing.

3.5 Officers of the working group and representatives from CVS have arranged to meet outwith the working group to consider issues, such as:

- alternative sources of funding for organisations
- transparent criteria for applications
- identification of duplication of services currently provided from the grants paid out

3.6 This will subsequently be reported back to the working group.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 No further analysis was considered necessary at this point.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The grants budget currently has a balance of £47.79. A report is being presented to Council requesting virement of £75,000 to top up the budget in 2007/08. Grants totalling £83,439 have been considered by the working group, with £18,136 eligible for payment from this budget if funding is made available, with £53,827 continued for further information.

8. Recommendation

8.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 24 January 2008

Person to Contact: Gillian McNeilly, Manager of Accounting, Garshake Road.
Telephone (01389) 737194
E-mail: gillian.mcneilly@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: None

Background Papers: Grant applications

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee minutes
Grants Working Group minutes

Wards Affected: All