

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 29 October 2008

Subject: Grants Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on grants to voluntary organisations through Dumbarton Common Good, Community Council budgets and via delegated Member approval.
- 1.2** The report also provides an analysis of local grants approved by the CVS during 2008/09.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 26 March 2008 agreed a report on the new grants administration procedures being implemented for 2008/09. A breakdown of the grants budget between strategic partners; cultural projects; contingency budget and applications being administered by the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) was also agreed. Urgent grants required through the transitional period of transferring the administration of grants to the CVS are detailed for Members' information.
- 2.2** In August 2008, the transfer of operation of the West Dunbartonshire Council Community Chest element of the Council Grant Scheme to West Dunbartonshire CVS was finalised.

3. Main Issues

Grants awarded by Delegated Approval

- 3.1** There has been one request from an organisation requiring urgent funding through the transitional period of transferring the administration of grants to the CVS. The total of this request was £5,481.59, shown in Appendix A and was deducted from the funding passed to the CVS.

Dumbarton Common Good Fund 2008/2009

- 3.2** A request for funding of £13,000 was received from Alternatives (West Dunbartonshire Community Drugs Service). In previous years the group have been awarded a total of £12,000 of which £5,000 was allocated through the Dumbarton Common Good Fund. This organisation has been classed as a Strategic Partner and allocated Council funding of £7,000 through the new process. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note officer's recommendation of the additional £5,000 from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

Community Council Grants

- 3.3** Two applications have been received with regards to Community Council funding which are shown in Appendix A. Members should note officer's recommendation totalling £8,648.75.

Local Grants Assessed applications by the CVS

- 3.4** Consideration of local organisation applications has now been completed. Assessments are ongoing in relation to 6 regional/national organisation applications. This will be complete by the end of October.

Appendix B shows an analysis of grants awarded by different categories:-

- (a) By reason – the majority of grant funding is used by organisations for running costs, with smaller sums being used for staffing and project costs.
 - (b) By group type – the majority of the funding is used by organisations providing community facilities with smaller amounts being used by elderly groups, for sports groups and for sensory impairment. The remainder being used for Heritage and Minority Groups.
 - (c) By value of award – There has been a total of 29 grants paid to 26 organisations in 2008/9 totalling £93,979.85.
- 3.5** From Appendix B, Members are advised that assessment of the outstanding applications by the CVS has engendered award notifications totalling £63,605 having been given to the 20 local organisations. The remaining grant budget for the year 2008/9 is therefore £16,030. To date no applications have been declined and it has not been possible to identify alternative sources of match funding in this financial year. This will be addressed early in the New Year.
- 3.6** Five new applications have been received since 1 October and will be dealt with within the relevant timescales.

- 3.7** Four recipient organisations are also being supported to access additional funding from alternative sources.

Scheme Awareness

- 3.8** Selina Ross of the CVS will be in attendance at the Committee to give a short presentation on the operation of the new arrangements and to respond to any Member's questions.
- 3.9** Details of the scheme and the new arrangements are currently being publicised and a leaflet is being prepared for circulation to all 908 local organisations with the December edition of Focus Magazine.
- 3.10** Invitations for the CVS to speak about the new scheme have been accepted from 5 local organisations. An invitation to discuss the scheme was also sent to Members of the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee.
- 3.11** A copy of the application form (Appendix C) and assessment flow chart (Appendix D) are attached for information.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** If recommendations in 3.3 are agreed, the remaining Community Council budget for the year would be £1,757.67.
- 5.2** Any Dumbarton Common Good grant funding agreed will be taken account of within the next budget monitoring statement.
- 5.3** After taking account of the grants awarded both by the Council and the CVS, the remaining general grants budget for the year 2008/9 is £16,030.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The Council and the CVS must consider financial and reputational risks when considering grant applications. The financial risk is not only that the Council remains within budget, but also that the voluntary organisation is in a long term viable position. Organisations funded by the Council must also comply with Conditions of Grant which cover issues such as discrimination, health and safety, insurance, etc.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** A number of grants as shown in Appendix A are being recommended following officer's assessment of financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area.
- 7.2** A number of grants have been approved following the CVS assessing the financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area, leaving £16,030 available for other applications in 2008/09.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** The Committee is invited to agree the recommendations for:
- (a) Dumbarton Common Good 2008/2009 - £5,000
 - (b) Community Councils 2008/2009 - £8,648.75
- 8.2** The Committee is invited to note the grants approved under delegated authority through the transitional period of transferring the administration of grants to the CVS.
- 8.3** The Committee is invited to note the grants approved through the administration of grants by the CVS.

Joyce White
Executive Director of Corporate Services
Date: October 2008

Wards Affected: All

Appendix Appendix A: Detailed breakdown of Grants
Appendix B: Analysis of grants awarded
Appendix C: Grant Application Form
Appendix D: Flowchart

Background Papers: Grant applications

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