

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee: 4 August 2008

Subject: Applications for funding for 2009 - Year of Homecoming

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise members of the Cultural Sub-Committee of the outcome of funding applications for 2009 -Year of Homecoming.

2. Background

- 2.1** Funded by the Scottish Government, the 2009 Homecoming year long programme of events is designed to *“celebrate some of Scotland’s great contributions to the world and its unique position as the home of Burns, Golf, Whisky, the Enlightenment and innovation, and of course as the ancestral home of those of Scots descent worldwide”*.
- 2.2** Applications for event funding were invited by VisitScotland from local authorities and private organisations seeking to stage new events or upgrade existing events to comply with the aims of Homecoming 2009. West Dunbartonshire Council submitted two applications and an external promoter also submitted an application for an event planned for Balloch Castle Country Park. The applications submitted were as follows;
- Application from Events & Halls section for funding in support of a 2009 Classical Music Event
 - Application from Events & Halls section for funding in support of the 2009 Loch Lomond Highland Games
 - Application from Regular Music Ltd. for a Scottish contemporary music festival on the final Saturday in August 2009 headlined by a major Scottish band.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Three applications were submitted timeously to VisitScotland and the results of the panel’s deliberations were that;
- The application from Events & Halls section for funding in support of the 2009 Classical Music Event was **unsuccessful** and this event would not therefore receive funding from the Homecoming 2009 fund.

- The application from Events & Halls section for funding in support of the 2009 Loch Lomond Highland Games was **unsuccessful** and this event would not therefore receive funding from the Homecoming 2009 fund.
- The Application from Regular Music Ltd. for a Scottish contemporary music festival on the final Saturday in August 2009 headlined by a major Scottish band was **partially successful** in that this event will receive 40% of the level of funding applied for.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** In relation to the Council's two applications, the request for funding of the 2009 Loch Lomond Highland Games was in addition to the core event funding already identified within Council revenue budgets. The additional funding is not required for the event to proceed instead it would have been used to expand the event.
- 5.2** There is presently no budget allocation for the 2009 Classical Music event therefore, should support exist to stage this event, budget provision will require to be allocated in the financial year 2009/2010.
- 5.3** In relation to the application from Regular Music for a Scottish contemporary music festival, it may be the case that the award of 40% of costs may not be sufficient to stage the event. At this point in time the promoters are considering their options in respect of this event.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is no risk attached to the refusal of these funding applications

7. Conclusion

- 7.1** Although the outcome of the two Council Homecoming 2009 applications is disappointing the Highland Games event will not be adversely affected. If support exists for the Classical Music event then budget provision for the year 2009/2010 requires to be approved by Members of this sub-committee. Full details of anticipated costs can be provided in a report to a future meeting.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Cultural Sub-Committee is requested to note the content of this report

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Date: 13 June 2008

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: Report "2009 - Year of Homecoming" to Culture Sub
Committee 20 March 2008

Wards Affected: All