

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 25 February 2009

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

Dumbarton Common Good Fund 2009/2010

- 3.1** A request for funding of £56,500 has been received from Scottish Maritime Museum. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note officer's recommendation of £55,650.
- 3.2** Following the decision of the Committee in December 2008 to provide further funding of £11,000 to Bellsmyre Digital, to be followed by an update to this Committee. Currently the group have funding to cover costs until 30 April 2009. The group intend to apply to the Common Good for funding during 2009/10.

Vale of Leven Trust Fund

- 3.3** A request for funding of £3,135 has been received from Vale of Leven Age Concern. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note officer's recommendation of £3,135. The balance currently available in the Trust is £14,439.

Community Council Applications 2008/2009

- 3.4** Two requests for funding have been received with regards to Community Councils which are shown in Appendix A. Members should note officer's recommendation totalling £2,562.50.

Contingency Partnership/Strategic Partners

- 3.5** West Dunbartonshire CVS returned two applications for consideration outwith the Community Chest Scheme which are shown in Appendix A. These applications are recommended to become strategic partners and awarded a grant (totalling £13,000) from the Contingency Fund for 2008/2009 and for 2009/2010 onwards.
- 3.6** In addition, a sum of £10,200 has been allocated to Education on the list of strategic partners for Duntocher Out of Schools for rental costs. The rental for this, per annum, however is £16,000. Therefore, it is recommended that the sum of £5,800 be approved from the contingency fund for 2008/2009 and that £16,000 is allocated to Education for 2009/10 and future.
- 3.7** A contingency grant balance of £35,000 was held by the Council at the start of the year for the purpose of further strategic partners. If the recommendations for strategic grants as noted in 3.5 and 3.6 are approved (totalling £18,800), then a balance of £16,200 would remain in the contingency fund unspent to date.

Local Grants Assessed applications by the CVS

- 3.8** 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 39 grants paid to 39 organisations in 2008/9 totalling £108,113.85. A note of the requested level of grant funding is also given within the appendix.

3.9 From Appendix B, Members are advised that assessment of the outstanding applications by the CVS has engendered award notifications totalling £77,739 having been given to the 30 local organisations. The remaining grant budget for the year 2008/9 is, therefore, £1,896.15. The CVS do not intend to meet again to discuss grant applications during 2008/09 and, as such, the remaining balance should be returned to the Council.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Any Dumbarton Common Good and Vale of Leven Trust Fund grant funding agreed will be taken account of within the next budget monitoring statement.

5.2 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 £1,896.15.

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 Grants 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 £1,896.15 available for other applications in 2008/09.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is invited to agree the recommendations for:

- (a) Dumbarton Common Good (2009/2010) - £55,650**
- (b) Vale of Leven Trust Fund (2008/09) - £3,135**
- (c) Community Councils (2008/2009)- £2,562.50**
- (d) Transfer of £18,800 from the contingency fund to strategic partners for 2008/2009 onwards.**

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: February 2009

Wards Affected: All

Appendix
Appendix A: Detailed breakdown of Grants
Appendix B: Analysis of grants awarded

Background Papers: Grant applications

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