

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee – 26 May 2010

Subject: Grant Applications

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on grants to voluntary organisations from the Trust Fund and Dumbarton Common Good budgets.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 26 March 2008 agreed the new grants administration procedures implemented during 2008/09.
- 2.2** The Council continues to administer grants for Strategic Partner identification, Community Councils, Dumbarton Common Good and Trust Funds and the Elderly Welfare Christmas payout.

3. Main Issues

Dumbarton Common Good Fund

- 3.1** One application was continued from the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 24 March 2010 for further information to be provided. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note the original officer's recommendation of nil.
- 3.2** Two requests for funding (meeting Fund criteria) have been received from organisations totalling £10,500. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note officer's recommendation of £500.

Community Council Applications

- 3.3** Two applications for funding have been received from organisations totalling £12,649.19. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note officer's recommendation of £11,600.

Strategic Partners

- 3.4 During the recent budget setting process, the annual grant to the Antonine Sports Centre was reduced by £10,000. The Antonine Centre has taken time to review options available to them to ensure their budget going forward continues to break even.
- 3.5 The Antonine approached the Council with a proposal which they anticipate would allow this to happen. In essence they would refinance their current loan (which the Council is guarantor for) increasing it by approximately £20k, but would continue to repay the full revised loan value over the current agreed period. Short term this would increase the Council liability as guarantor, but over no longer a time period.
- 3.6 This additional funding would be used to match fund income from Sports Scotland to allow new outdoor pitches. This should increase the flow of income beyond current levels, with an aim to both repay the new loan and bring in further additional income.
- 3.7 To ensure maximum benefit of additional income in the current year for the centre, the new pitches would ideally be laid prior to the summer. Delegated approval to agree the proposal was requested and given by the Convener of this Committee and Leaders of both political parties, prior to this Committee.

4. People Implications

- 4.1 There are no people implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Assuming approval of grants recommendations, the Dumbarton Common Good budgeted spend would increase by £500 in 2010/11.
- 5.2 The approval of the community council grants are within the budget available.

6. Risk Analysis

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

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8.1** Grants shown in Appendix A are being recommended following officer's assessment of financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area.
- 8.2** The Committee is invited to agree the recommendations for:
- (a) Dumbarton Common Good Fund applications £500.
 - (b) Community Council applications £11,600.
- 8.3** The Committee is asked to note the delegated approval of the restructure loan position of the Antonine Sports Centre.

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Joyce White
Executive Director of Corporate Services
Date: 7 May 2010

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

Appendix Appendix A: Detail of applications for assessment

Background Papers: Grant applications

Wards Affected: All