

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services**

#### **Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee – 20 June 2012**

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#### **Subject: Update of Voluntary Grants 2011/2012 and 2012/13**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of voluntary grants approved during 2011/12.
- 1.2** This report also provides Committee with an update on grants to voluntary organisations from the Community Council and Dumbarton Common Good budgets.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** The Corporate Services Committee in March 2007 agreed that a report be brought to Committee after each year end giving information regarding the grants approved during the financial year.
- 2.2** Community Chest, play scheme and cultural grants are administered by the West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteer Service (CVS) and are reported to Committee at the year end. The Council continues to administer grants for organisations identified as Strategic Partners, Community Councils, Dumbarton Common Good and Trust Funds and the Older people's grant payout.
- 2.3** During 2011/12, the amount paid out in grants is made up as follows:

<b>Group Type:</b>	<b>£000</b>
Strategic Partners	538
Community Chest/Play scheme/Cultural	94
Other – Council agreed	1
Dumbarton Common Good	188
Trust Funds	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>821</b>

- 2.4** The strategic partners, as approved by this Committee are monitored by departments and their related committees – therefore they have been excluded from this report. The Council retains an element of grant funding during the year for potentially new strategic partners. Any balance on this budget at the year end is allocated to the CVS for future payments.
- 2.5** This report summarises the output and benefits to the community on the remaining 5 types of grant allocated during 2011/12, the first three types grants are administered by the West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteer Service (CVS) throughout the year:
- Community Chest;
  - Cultural;
  - Playscheme;
  - Dumbarton Common Good grants are approved by this Committee; and
  - Trust Funds grants which are approved by this Committee.
- 2.6** The report also makes recommendations to Members on the grant applications received to date in 2012/13.

### **3. Main Issues**

#### **Grants 2011/12**

##### **Community Chest/Cultural/Playscheme Grants**

- 3.1** The 2011/12 grants funding was administered by the CVS, 35 grant applications were approved, with a total of £0.094m was paid out to organisations throughout West Dunbartonshire, in line with budget allocated to the CVS. Appendix A lists the grants allocated during 2011/12.
- 3.2** By spend type - the largest proportion of amounts paid out were used towards running costs, with smaller sums being used as noted in the table below:

<b>Spend Type:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Running costs	79,211	74%
Project/Event	9,300	10%
Playscheme	2,613	3%
Equipment	2,650	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,774</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 3.3** By group type – the largest proportion of amounts paid out were used by groups who provide a community facility, the remainder being used as noted in the table below:

<b>Group Type:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Community Facilities	27,636	30%
Leisure/Recreation	21,612	23%
Disability/Care	15,316	16%
Justice/Equalities	11,350	12%
Older People	10,747	11%
Sport	4,500	5%
Playschemes	2,613	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,774</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 3.4** By Area – the largest proportion of amounts paid out were for groups within the Clydebank area, the remainder being used as noted in the table below:

<b>By Area:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Clydebank	49,201	53%
Dumbarton	18,201	19%
Council-wide	16,100	17%
Vale of Leven	9,798	10%
Milton/Bowling/Old Kilpatrick	640	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,774</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 3.5** By value of award – The highest of percentage of grants awarded were valued over £5,000, the remainder being awarded as noted in the table below:

<b>By Value of award</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
£5,000 and higher	45,744	49%
Between £500 and £4,999	43,575	46%
Below £500	4,455	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,774</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Dumbarton Common Good grants

- 3.6** Nine organisations benefited from funding from the Dumbarton Common good – totalling £0.188m. A list of organisations who received funding is noted on Appendix A.

#### Trust Fund grants

- 3.7** During 2011/12, no organisations received grant funding from council-administered Trust Funds.

### Other

- 3.8** During 2011/12, a number of organisations submitted applications for Council funding and were referred by the CVS to other funders. A total of £0.092m of potential applicants for Council funding was supported by the CVS by re-routing applications to other sources. A list of those organisations is included as Appendix B. All applications received by the CVS were granted funding for either Community Chest grants, alternative funders (e.g. Awards for All, Voluntary Action Fund and Pastoral Care Trust) or identified as a Council strategic partner.
- 3.9** A grant of £1,000 was approved from the retained grants budget, as identified in Appendix A.
- 3.10** The balance on the retained grants budget in 2011/12 of £21,000 will be allocated by the CVS during 2012/13.
- 3.11** The funding identified for Strategic Partners in 2.2 above was fully allocated during 2011/12.

### Grants 2012/13

#### Community Council Applications

- 3.12** Two applications have been received for funding. Amount due is based upon the lower amount requested or the formula set by the Scottish Government. Details are shown in Appendix C and Members should note £3,650 is due to be paid.

#### Dumbarton Common Good Fund

- 3.13** Two applications have been received for funding. Details are shown in Appendix C and Members should note £17,500 is recommended to be paid.
- 3.14** In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Dumbarton Common Good monies can only be legally used for purposes which benefit Dumbarton or its inhabitants. Information provided with the grant application forms suggests that Dumbarton and its residents do receive benefit from this project.
- 3.15** At the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 21 March 2012, Members considered a grant application for Bellsmyre Schools Out Club. The Club requested grant funding for £24,099 and Committee agreed an interim payment for £10,000, pending a further report coming back to a future meeting of the Committee providing more information on the Club's operation and Business Plan.

**3.16** The Club does not have a Business Plan. However this is currently being considered. The grant requested is used to subsidise running costs due to a reduction in children attending the club. There are currently 24 children attending on a part time basis, with no full time children attending. The group are unable to downsize staffing as, by law, they must have a minimum of 2 members of staff at all times. They are currently working with 2 staff members and a part-time manager.

**3.17** The group operates 7-9am and 3-6pm during week and 7am-6pm for in service days/summer holidays. There are 2 daily rates per child (with fun days being free of charge) -

1. on a normal school week cycle; and
2. during school holidays.

**3.18** Without funding the group would continue to exist as they are at present, running month to month and applying for grants, more fundraising/ donations. They would like to be able to expand the services that they provide, opening up the club to a wider community than they do at present. Their biggest expenditure is over the summer holidays when they have to pay staff for the extra hours. Action to reduce costs has been considered and where possible, action taken.

#### **4. People Implications**

**4.1** There are no people implications.

#### **5. Financial implications**

**5.1** The CVS paid out grants in line with the funding allocated to it during 2011/12. A total of £0.821m was paid out in grants during 2011/12, as noted in 2.2 above.

**5.2** Of the retained strategic budget a sum of £21,000 remains unspent at the end of financial year 2011/12 and has been brought-forward into 2012/13 for CVS allocation.

**5.3** The amount due to be paid from the Community Council Budget 2012/13 totals £3,650. This will be contained within the appropriate budget.

**5.4** The amount recommended to be paid from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund Budget 2012/13 totals £17,500. Although this will increase the overall spend in the Fund, it will be contained within the net annual income within the fund.

## **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 Assessment**

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

## **8. Strategic Assessment**

- 8.1** The Council has identified four main strategic priorities, namely Social & Economic Regeneration; Financial Strategy; Asset Management Strategy; and Fit for Purpose Services.
- 8.2** The award of these grants has an indirect impact on regeneration through the work by these voluntary groups.

## **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 9.1** Analysis suggests that grants awarded to voluntary organisations from Council funding 2011/12 have been used in a variety of ways to help the local community.
- 9.2** The Bellsmyre Schools Out Club is in the process of generating a Business Plan and remain in a similar position to that previously reported due to a downturn in business. As stated above, it is understood that the Club can continue to run into the future through fundraising activity and if business increases this should reduce the reliance on such fundraising. Committee agreed, on 21 March 2012, to provide delegated authority to officers to make further payments if urgently required by the Club. There has been no further approach to officers in this regard and it is suggested that this facility remains in place over the summer months. The Club will require to develop a Business Plan and assess whether sufficient business is available to allow it to consider to operate.
- 9.3** The grants shown in Appendix C are recommended to be paid, following officer's assessment of financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area.
- 9.4** The Committee is asked to:
- (a) note the position of the grants paid out in 2011/12;

- (b) note the update on Bellsmyre Schools Out Club and agree that the power delegated to officers to provide any urgent funding should be extended to cover the summer months with any additional funding reported to a future Committee;
- (c) note the grants due to be awarded for Community Councils (totalling £3,650); and
- (d) agree grants recommended to be awarded for the Dumbarton Common Good Fund (totalling £17,500) and advise the Brain Injury Experience Network to apply for the remainder of the funding sought from the community chest fund through application to CVS.

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**Angela Wilson**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Date: 7 June 2012**

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**Appendix:** A: Breakdown of Community Chest, Cultural & Playscheme Grants 2011/12  
B: Potential Applicant Organisations Supported to Attract External Funding 2011/12  
C: Grant application Schedule 2012/13

**Background papers:** Grant application summary information  
Individual group grant applications

**Wards affected:** All wards