

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Council: 30 January 2008

Subject: Grants Virement

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to update Council on the voluntary grants budget position and request virement to supplement the 2007/08 grants budget.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 27 June 2007 agreed to set up a grants working group tasked with reviewing the current process. The aim of the group was to reduce bureaucracy surrounding the grants, as well as identifying initiatives to help the longer term sustainability of the Council's grants budget (e.g. alternative sources of funding for organisations, transparent criteria for applications, identification of duplication of services provided from the grants).
- 2.2. The group was also tasked with reviewing and approving grant applications on behalf of the Committee, through the use of appropriate delegated authority.
- 2.3. The working group's membership includes nominated Members from the Committee, officers and representation from C.V.S.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1. The current balance on the grants budget is £47.79 (since the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 28 November 2007).
- 3.2. A number of grant applications were referred to the working group at its meeting on 11 December 2007 for further consideration. A number of further applications were considered by the group at its meeting on 14 January 2008. The total balance of grants referred to date is £83,439.
- 3.3. A number of these applications are for funding organisations which will be relying on Council funding to remain active. Appropriate action has been taken for applications due from 2008/09 and payable from Dumbarton Common Good Fund. However, the majority of applications are for 2007/08 and cannot wait for re-assessment in 2008/09.

- 3.4. In reviewing the applications, the working group has either agreed appropriate levels of funding, if further funding becomes available during 2007/08 (including nil awards) or has asked for further information.
- 3.5. In view of the budgetary pressures faced by the local grants budget, the working group has requested that funding of £75,000 be vired to the local grants budget to allow these grants to be paid in 2007/08 and the groups to continue their work. The Chief Executive/ Head of Finance will liaise with departmental executive directors to report full details of the budget lines from which the budget will be vired to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 26 March 2008.
- 3.6. This would give a balance available for voluntary organisations of £75,047.79.

4. Personnel Implications

- 4.1. There are no personnel implications.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. Virement is requested to give additional resources of £75,000 to the local grants budget in 2007/08. Full details of the budget lines comprising the transfer will be presented to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 26 March 2008.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1. The Council must consider financial and reputational risks when considering grant applications. The financial risks include ensuring the voluntary organisations are 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.
- 6.2. There is a risk that unforeseen circumstances or burdens could arise between now and 31 March which would create an overspend position within the departments agreeing to vire a level of their budget to the grants budget.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The local grants budget currently has a balance of £47.79 available for distribution. To enable a number of voluntary organisations to continue work in the area, virement of £75,000 from various budget areas (detail to be advised) is requested.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to :-

- (a) note the ongoing work and remit of the grants working group with a view to bring long term sustainability to the Council's grants budget.**
- (b) approve a budget virement of £75,000 to the grants budget. Full details of the budget lines comprising the transfer to be presented to the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 26 March 2008.**

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 17 January 2008

Wards Affected: All wards

Appendix: n/a

Background Papers: Minutes - Grants Working Group

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