

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 28 November 2007

Subject: Grants to Voluntary Organisations

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on the budget position of Grants to Voluntary Organisations.
- 1.2** The report also provides details of grant applications put forward for Committee approval.

2. Background

- 2.1** Previously in 2005/2006 grants applications in respect of Local Grants, Social Work and Education Grants were considered by the relevant departmental Committees.
- 2.2** At the Council Tax setting on 9 February 2006 it was agreed to rationalise these grants into one budget heading and reduce the budget for efficiencies, this report incorporates these changes. This means that there is one main budget now for what were previously Local grants, Central grants, Social Work grants and Education grants.
- 2.3** At the Corporate Services Committee on 28 March 2007, Members agreed to new procedures to be introduced in respect of grants to voluntary organisations and community groups which have been implemented in this report.
- 2.4** At the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 26 September 2007, the Committee agreed, in principle, subject to further consultation, to establish a 4 tier grants system and introduce delegated powers within a working group for grants below a specific threshold.

3. Main Issues

Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2007/2008

- 3.1** The current budgetary position is set out in Appendix A and highlights a balance of £2,406.47 in the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Budget.

- 3.2** Due to the level of grants already approved in 2007/08 and the level of grants applications received, there are a number of grants which officers would have recommended at a higher level. However, in keeping the grant spend within budget, grant recommendations have been kept to Nil. The grant applications received and assessed by officers are summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix C.
- 3.3** It should be noted that implications arising from grant recommendations made falling below the level of grant requested have been discussed with the relevant organisations, where possible.

Dumbarton Common Good Fund 2007/2008

- 3.4** No direct applications have been received with regards to the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

Community Council Grants 2007/2008

- 3.5** The current budgetary position is set out in Appendix A, highlighting a balance of £4,341.32 in the Community Council Grants Budget.
- 3.6** Due to the level of grants already approved in 2007/08 and the monetary level of application received, in keeping the grant spend within budget, the grant recommendation has been kept to £4,341.32 from the community council budget with an additional recommendation from the local grants budget of £2,358.68 by way of virement (total recommendation £6,700). This has been noted within Appendix C.
- 3.7** Grant applications received have been assessed by officers as being eligible for grant if sufficient funds were available. These are summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix C.

Grants awarded by Delegated Approval

- 3.8** There have been no requests from organisations requiring urgent funding outwith the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee by Delegated Approval.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The budget position is noted within point 3 of this report. If recommendations in 3.1-3.7 are agreed, this would leave an annual budget of:

	£
Grants to Voluntary Organisations (2007/2008)	47.79
Grants to Community Council (2007/2008)	Nil

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 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** A number of grants as summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix C are being recommended following normal assessment of financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** The Committee is invited to agree the officers' recommendations for:

- (a) **Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2007/2008 - £2,358.68 to supplement the Community Council budget**
- (b) **Community Council Grants 2007/2008 - £4,341.32**

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Date: 16 November 2007

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Appendix A:	Budget Update
Appendix B:	Summary of grants presented
Appendix C:	Detail of grants presented
Background Papers:	Grant applications
Wards Affected:	All wards affected