

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer - Resources

Corporate Services Committee: 19 May 2021

Subject: Update of Voluntary Grants 2020/21

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update of the voluntary grants administered and awarded by West Dunbartonshire Community & Volunteering Services (WDCVS) in 2020/21 in respect of Community Chest, Playschemes, Cultural, and Social Transport Support Funding Grants on behalf of the Council.
- 1.2** The report also provides information on the position regarding the Ending Loneliness Fund, the Provost's Fund and the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to note the position of the grants paid out by WDCVS, Ending Loneliness Fund, the Provost's Fund and the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

3. Background

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** Community Chest, Playscheme, Cultural and Social Transport Support Grants are administered by WDCVS. The Council continues to administer grants for Dumbarton Common Good, the Provost's Fund and the Ending Loneliness Fund.
- 3.3** The Provost's Fund was established in 1953 as the Burgh of Clydebank Provost's Fund and in November 1998 it was determined that the Fund may be used to cover the whole of West Dunbartonshire. As part of the budget agreed by Members on 22 March 2021, £8,000 was allocated to the Provost Fund for 2021/22.

4. Main Issues

WDCVS Administered Funds

- 4.1** During 2020/21, the total budgets available and the amounts paid out in grants administered by WDCVS are noted below:

Group Type	Total Budget	Agreed	Unspent
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		Spend	
Community Chest/Cultural/Playscheme	£50,000	£29,711	£20,289
Social Transport Support	£100,000	£0	£100,000
WDC funded total	£150,000	£29,711	£120,289

Community Chest/Cultural/Playschemes

4.2 The 2020/21 budget was set at £50,000 and WDCVS has awarded £29,711 in grant funding to organisations as noted in Appendix A.

4.3 In addition to the above, a number of organisations submitted funding applications and were referred by WDCVS to other funders. As a result of this a further £268,830 of applications for funding was supported by WDCVS by re-routing applications to other sources as noted in Appendix B.

4.4 All applications received by WDCVS were granted funding from either Community Chest Grants or alternative funders.

Social Transport Funding

4.5 The 2020/21 budget was set at £100,000 and WDCVS has made no awards during 2020/21. There have been a variety of reasons that has resulted in no awards during this year, mainly due to covid-19 restrictions. Premises and/ groups were temporarily closed and/or meetings moved online; many groups have high numbers of members in the shielding category.

Ending Loneliness Funding

4.6 The annual budget for Ending Loneliness Fund is £10,000. During this year two organisations received funding and grants totalling £5,467, though one organisation later returned their entire grant of £2,694 and the other organisation returned an unspent amount of £1,885 resulting in a net spend of £888, as detailed in Appendix C.

Provost's Fund

4.7 The Fund was allocated £3,000 in 2020/21, however, there was no spend during 2020/21 on the Provost's Fund, as the Provost received no requests for funding assistance during 2020/21, likely due to covid-19 restrictions.

Dumbarton Common Good

4.8 Nine organisations benefited from funding from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund totalling £190,785 against a budget of £193,201, as detailed in Appendix D. The £7,000 small grants budget has not awarded any funding during 2020-21 as no applications were received.

5. Option Appraisal

5.1 No option appraisal was required for this report.

6. People Implications

6.1 There are no people implications.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1** WDCVS paid out grants totalling £29,711 during 2020/21. The full budget was £150,000, leaving a balance of £120,289 unspent. At a special meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 21 April 2021 Members agreed to provide £20,000 funding to the Golden Friendships Club in 2021/22 from the underspend.

The Ending Loneliness grants paid out total £888. The full budget was £10,000, leaving a balance of £9,112 unspent.

The Provost's Fund was unspent in 2020/21 and the £3,000 funding remains available for spend in 2021/22, together with the £8,000 funds available through the budget process 2021/22.

For the Common Good Fund the small underspend is added to reserves and carried forward for future use.

8. Risk Analysis

- 8.1** 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 organisations funded by the Council and the Common Good Fund are both viable in the long term and comply with the Conditions of Grant which cover issues such as discrimination, health and safety, insurance, etc.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

10. Environmental Sustainability

- 10.1** No assessment of environmental sustainability was required in relation to this report.

11. Consultation

- 11.1** Legal and Financial Officers have been consulted in preparing this report.

12. Strategic Assessment

- 12.1** Proper budgetary control and sound financial practice are cornerstones of good governance and support Council and officers to pursue the 5 strategic priorities of the Councils Strategic Plan.
- 12.2** Payment of voluntary grants contributes to improvements in life changes for children and young people, care for elderly and the wellbeing of communities.

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Date: 22 April 2021

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Appendices:

- Appendix A: Breakdown of Community Chest, Cultural & Playscheme Grants 2020/21
- Appendix B: Organisations Supported by WDCVS to attract external funding in 2020/21
- Appendix C: Breakdown of Ending Loneliness Grants 2020/21
- Appendix D: Breakdown of Dumbarton Common Good Grants 2020/21

Background Papers: Grant application summary information
Individual group grant applications

Wards Affected: All wards