

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by the Chief Executive
Corporate Services Committee: 28 March 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 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 Council meeting on 25 October 2006 Members agreed to transfer £40,000 from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations to the Dumbarton Common Good Fund to fund West Dunbartonshire's Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 2.4 Due to the budgetary pressures faced by the Local Grants Budget, a Motion was agreed at the Council meeting of 25 October 2006 that a virement transfer of £60,000 be agreed between the Chief Executive, Director of Education & Cultural Services, Acting Director of Social Work and the Head of Finance.

3. Main Issues

Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/2007

- 3.1 The current budgetary position is set out in Appendix A and highlights a balance of £9,764.27 in the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Budget. This includes the transfer of £60,000 as noted in 2.4.

- 3.2** The Committee should note that implications arising from grant recommendations made - which fall below the level of grant requested - have been discussed with the relevant organisations. It is recognised that grant recommendations in respect of Duntocher Out of School Care and Victim Support (West Dunbartonshire) fall significantly short of sums requested. Council approval of any additional sums awarded would be required.
- 3.3** Grant applications received have been assessed by officers as being eligible for grant (totalling £9,764.27), these are summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix C and have been calculated on a pro-rata basis due to budget constraints. If these recommendations are agreed, the balance of the Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget would be expended.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2007/2008

- 3.4** Applications for grant from organisations requesting urgent funding are summarised in Appendix B and detailed in Appendix C (totalling £6,340) If these recommendations are agreed the balance of the Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget would be £574,670.
- 3.5** The last Corporate Services Committee referred the report on revised grants procedures to the Community Participation Committee. As any changes in procedures are not yet approved, the 2007/08 grant applications reported in 3.4 are those considered urgent and, as such, it was deemed necessary to make recommendations to Members at this Committee

Dumbarton Common Good Fund 2006/2007

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

Community Council Grants 2006/2007

- 3.7** The current budgetary position is set out in Appendix A, highlighting a balance of £8,116.25 in the Community Council Grants Budget, and includes the return of grant monies from the closure of Dumbarton West Community Council. There are no Community Council applications for consideration at this time.

Grants awarded by Delegated Approval

- 3.8** No applications for grant have been awarded under 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 3.1-3.4 are agreed this would leave an annual budget of:-

	£
Grants to Voluntary Organisations (2006/2007)	Nil
Grants to Voluntary Organisations (2007/2008)	574,670

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 That Committee agree the officer's recommendations for:-

- (a) Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/2007 (£9,764.27)
- (b) Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2007/2008 (£6,340.00)

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Date: 14 March 2007

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Appendix: A: Budget Update
B: Summary of grants presented
C: Detail of grants presented

Background Papers: Grant applications

Wards Affected: All wards affected