

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services
Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee - 22 June 2011

Subject: Grant Applications

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on grants to voluntary organisations from the Trust Fund and Dumbarton Common Good budgets.

2. Background

- 2.1** Community Chest grants are administered by the West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteer Service (CVS) and are reported to Committee at the year end.
- 2.2** The Council continues to administer grants for Strategic Partner identification, Community Councils, Dumbarton Common Good and Trust Funds and the Elderly Welfare Christmas payout.
- 2.3** The Dumbarton Common Good budget 2011/12 was approved at Committee on 23 February 2011, with grant funding agreed for a number of organisations at that time.

3. Main Issues

Dumbarton Common Good Fund

- 3.1** Two applications for funding have been received for the Common Good Fund. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note officer's recommendations of £Nil.

Community Council Applications

- 3.2** 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 A and Members should note £11,350 is due to be paid.

Delegated Authority

- 3.3** There have been two requests from organisations requiring urgent funding outwith the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee by delegated

approval. Details are shown in Appendix A, and Members should note the amounts awarded.

Antonine Sports Centre

- 3.4** In May 2010, the Antonine approached the Council with a proposal to refinance their current loan (which the Council is guarantor for) increasing it by approximately £20,000, but continuing to repay the full revised loan value over the current agreed period. The additional funding was to be used to match fund income from Sports Scotland to allow an upgrade of outdoor pitches (which have outlived their useful life). This will increase income beyond current levels, with an aim to both repay the new loan and bring in additional income. Delegated approval was given by the Convener of the Committee and Leaders of both political parties, prior to Committee. This was reported to Committee on 26 May 2010.
- 3.5** The Antonine has since advised the Council that the Sports Scotland match funding is not available (due to the organisation not funding similar projects twice - the original pitches were funded with the help of Sports Scotland). The Antonine is now requesting that the Council agree to the refinancing of the loan, increasing it by £45,000 instead of £20,000 (taking up the loss of Sports Scotland funding) but still repaying over the same time frame. If acceptable, the guarantee by the Council will also increase by £45,000.
- 3.6** The finances of the Antonine have been regularly reviewed by the Council during 2010/11, taking account of the reduction of grant funding of £10,000 per annum.

4. People Implications

- 4.1** There are no people implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** If approval of the recommendations are given, the amount due to be paid to the Community Councils per 3.1 is £11,350.

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.

6.2 To increase the loan currently held by the Antonine sports Centre increases the risk to the Council by the additional £45,000, if the Centre defaults on payments of that loan.

7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 The grants shown in Appendix A are recommended for approval following officer's assessment of financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area. The Committee is asked to:

(a) note the grant due to be awarded for community councils (£11,350)

(b) note and agree the grants as recommended from the Dumbarton Common Good (£Nil)

(c) Note the grant awarded under Delegated Authority (£5,918)

(d) Approve the increase in the Antonine Sports Centre's current bank loan of £45,000 (noting the new total will still be within the overall guarantee originally approved by the Council)

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Date: 29 May 2011

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Appendix Appendix A: Detail of applications for assessment

Background Papers: Grant applications

Wards Affected: All