

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration

Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development Committee: 18 June 2014

Subject: Community Sports Fund

1. Purpose

1.1 To outline to Committee how the Community Sports Fund of £1million will be administered over the next 3 years.

2. Recommendations

2.1 An information note and application form is attached as Appendix 1 and 2 setting out:

- the criteria for the fund;
- the application and assessment process; and
- an application form.

2.2 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) agrees the proposed structuring of the fund as set out in Section 4 of the report;
- b) agrees the information note and application form in Appendix 1 and 2; and
- c) agrees the method of assessment of the applications as outlined in the information note.

3. Background

3.1 The Council Meeting of 6 February 2014 agreed to the establishment of a £1million fund for the creation and improvement of sporting facilities in West Dunbartonshire.

3.2 The purpose of this budget is to allow organisations to access funding to develop business cases to allow them to apply for external funding to improve and develop sporting facilities or to bid directly for funding to develop new facilities or upgrade existing facilities based on an existing business case.

3.3 This capital expenditure will require to be directly attributed to the acquisition, creation or improvement of land or facilities.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** A grant Application Form and Information Note have been prepared for consideration by the Committee (Appendix 1 and 2).
- 4.2** It is proposed that the applications would be assessed by a panel of Council officers using criteria set out in the information note at Appendix 1.
- 4.3** Funding applications would be considered under two categories.

Category 1 would allow organisations to bid for development funding of a business case up to the value of £10,000 per bid.

Category 2 applications would consider funding for facility improvements or creation of new facilities. The lower limit of grant would be £20,000, the upper limit would be £125,000. A clear business plan or development plan would require to support any application and match funding from other sources outwith the council would be required to offer additionality to any bid.

- 4.4** A formal launch would take place should this report be agreed to ensure all parties who would be eligible to apply for funding are aware of the existence of the scheme.

This would involve an organised event together with promoting the fund through the local media and other channels.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** Depending on the uptake of the grant funding, together with the nature and complexity of applications submitted, additional resource may be required to assist with the management of the fund.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The Council has committed to providing this fund over the next 3 years to a total value of £1million.
- 6.2** The fund would be split £120,000 for development funding and £880,000 for project implementation.
- 6.3** Should this fund prove successful, future additional funds could be allocated.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There is potential reputational risk if the Council does not implement a robust process assessment for the award of this funding. This risk will be mitigated through clearly establishing the award criteria.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 This funding offers potential for all types of groups to apply for funding and may offer opportunities for under represented groups to improve existing facilities.

9. Consultation

9.1 there would be a public launch of this scheme which would allow for public participation.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 This report will contribute to the physical regeneration of sporting facilities throughout West Dunbartonshire.

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Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration

Date: 12 May 2014

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Information Note
Appendix 2 - Application Form

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All