

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 22 June 2010**

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**Subject: Bellsmyre Digital Community**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide members with further information on a Dumbarton Common Good grant application received for Bellsmyre Digital Community.

**2. Background**

- 2.1** A Dumbarton Common Good grant application was received from Bellsmyre Digital Community for running costs from 26 April 2011 to 31 December 2011. The application was reported to Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 20 April 2011. The amount requested was £34,136 – 100% of their anticipated costs, the amount recommended by officers was £nil. The breakdown of the funding application is noted within Appendix 1. The application is in anticipation of a Big Lottery Application (£1.75m over 3 years) from 'My Place' (Bellsmyre Community Organisations), the outcome of which is anticipated in December 2011.
- 2.2** The nil recommendation was reported based upon a previous Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee agreement from 25 November 2009. The Committee agreed to approve an award for a grant at that time 'on the basis that this award would be the last and final award for this organisation unless any new application from this Project differed fundamentally from what was in place at the current time'.
- 2.3** At that time the funding application was for running costs of the Project. Although the Project was encouraging further use of the facilities, there was no income generation within the budget forecasts.
- 2.4** Members asked for further information to allow a full decision to be made and that, if required, any urgent funding could be approved under delegate authority. Since the last Committee £4,918 has been paid under delegated authority for urgent expenses until 30 June 2011, the breakdown of which is shown within Appendix 1.
- 2.5** Funding received from the Council and the Dumbarton Common Good over the past 4 years is noted below:

Year	Amount £
2010/11	Nil
2009/10	38,339
2008/09	15,000
2007/08	22,200

### 3. Main Issues

**3.1** Since the previous funding award in November 2009, the Project has detailed the following action having been taken:

- (a) Continued to provide services in Bellsmyre and outlying communities in terms of free hardware and software repairs;
- (b) Continued with activities surrounding the PC Club (general group for advanced IT skills) and Mousemates Club (over 50s group for basic skills);
- (c) Achieved charitable status in August 2010, opening up an avenue of alternative funding. However from information received it appears no grant funding has been sought by the group in the previous 12 months (with the exception noted in 2.1);
- (d) Engaged additional organisations:
  - *Work Connect* – pilot project for 12 weeks, 2 days per week use of training suite;
  - *Leven Addiction Services – Employability* - pilot project for 12 weeks, 0.5 days per week use of training suite;
 It is hoped that both organisations continue use of the facilities beyond the pilot.
- (e) Engaged in discussions with local primary schools with a view to develop homework projects within the community;
- (f) Further organisation who have shown an interest in using the facilities (not yet confirmed and no income noted) include:
  - Community Learning Team
  - Youth Outreach Workers
  - Dumbarton Area Council on Alcohol

**3.2** The budget supplied within the grant application form has no funding/ income generation assumed within it. However, the Project now advises that it expects income as noted below:

	£	
Work Connect	1,500	12 week pilot
Leven Addictions	480	12 week pilot
PC repairs	100	per week

#### **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** The Group has one member of staff currently employed on a temporary contract. No funding would result in the group requiring to release this member of staff.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The grant awarded under delegated authority results in £4,918 being paid from Dumbarton Common Good, reducing the balances held.
- 5.2** Any further grant awarded would result in a further amount also being paid from Dumbarton Common Good, reducing the balances held.

#### **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 Common Good Fund remains within budget, but also that the voluntary organisation is in a long term viable position. The funding application received covers the Project until December 2011, awaiting the outcome of a Big Lottery application from 'My Place' which, if successful, is likely to have a positive outcome for the Group. However, this Big Lottery application is not guaranteed to be successful. In the event of the application not being successful, there is no evidence to suggest that the Group have taken any action to ensure they are financially viable in the longer term.
- 6.2** Organisations funded by the Common Good must also comply with conditions of grant which covers issues such as discrimination, health and safety, insurance, etc.

#### **7. Equalities, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment**

- 7.1** There is the need to ensure access to suitably adapted facilities for all community user groups and that the proximity of facilities would require to be such that no specific group was being disadvantaged. If required, the Council will work with the user groups to help identify suitable alternative facilities.

#### **8. Officers' Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 8.1** The Group has indicated a few new pilot projects and a number of possible new projects.
- 8.2** Although the Group has developed the use of the facilities, the Projects budget has made no reference to income generation. It is not evident that the Group has made an attempt to become self funding / financially viable.

- 8.3** Since Committee in April 2011, the Group has received £4,918 urgent grant funding from the Dumbarton Common Good under delegated authority. Leaving funding of £29,218 still requested from the original application for funding.
- 8.4** Members are asked to consider the Bellsmyre Digital application for funding and note previous officers recommendation of £nil.

**Joyce White**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**Date: 26 May 2011**

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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Appendix 1: Budget 2011/12 – 26 April 2011 to 31 December 2011</b>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>Grant application</b>
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**Bellsmyre Digital Community Project**  
**Budget 2011/12 – 26 April 2011 to 31 December 2011**

	<b>Request</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Approved</b>
	<b>26/4/11 – 31/3/11</b>	<b>26/4/11 – 30/6/11</b>	<b>26/4/11 – 30/6/11</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Employee costs</b>			
Salaries*	27,328	3,670	3,670
National Insurance	2,387	448	448
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>			
Computer Consumables	1,340	800	300
Miscellaneous	670	0	0
<b>Property</b>			
Repairs & Maintenance	500	0	0
<b>Administration</b>			
Printing & Stationery	600	120	120
Information Technology – including phones	960	180	180
Advertising**	350	200	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,136</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>4,918</b>

\* salaries are due for the Project Technician, who remains in post

\*\*Advertising for users (including those paying)