

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Report by Strategic Lead, Resources
Corporate Services Committee
09 September 2020

Subject: Grant Application

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on a grant application and to not recommend a grant from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked not to agree the grant recommendation for funding as part of a larger 3 year project from Alternatives as per Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 Dumbarton Common Good Fund (DCG) grants are administered by the West Dunbartonshire Council and are reported to the Committee as and when applications are received.
- 3.2 The value of fund as at 31 March 2020 was £0.438m. The budgeted net expenditure for 2020/21 is £0.118m. The projected value of the fund at the end of 20/21 is £0.320m. The Prudential Reserve target value for the fund is £0.025m.
- 3.3 The small grants budget available for 2020/21 currently sits at £0.007m,

4. Main Issues

4.1 Grant Applications

One application has been received requesting funding of £50,425, details are shown in Appendix A. Members should note that no award has been recommended due to the high level of financial reserves held by Alternatives. The effect on the project of no award from Dumbarton Common Good, as advised by Alternatives, is either a reduced programme of activities or a curtailed project length, possibly both.

- 4.2** Members should note that as the small grants budget for 2020/21 is £7,000, to date no award has been made in 20/21 from this budget. An award of the full grant value would require £43,425 to be funded from DCG reserves and reduce the projected value of the fund at the end of 20/21 from £0.320m to £0.277m
- 4.3** The organisation has reported reserves of £0.686m in their 2018/19 accounts and their latest bank balance shows reserves of £0.647m were held as of 10th March 2020. Information has been received detailing plans for the use of £0.200m of these reserves over 3 years for a wider project, including £0.058m noted above for this project. The remaining reserves £0.447m includes £0.315m operating reserve which may need to be used to offset an operation deficit due to Covid 19 and some plans are being developed for the remaining £0.132m to extend their safe house scheme. Additional information on the use of reserves and the other fund raising efforts of the organisation is detailed in appendix B. Due to the high value of reserves held it is recommended that no award is approved.

5. Option Appraisal

- 5.1** No option appraisal consideration was required for this report.

6. People Implications

- 6.1** There are no people implications.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1** The amount recommended to be paid from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund totals £0.

8. Risk Analysis

- 8.1** The Committee must consider financial and reputational risks when considering grant applications. The financial risk is not only that the Dumbarton Common Good Fund remains financially viable, but also that the organisations funded by the Fund 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 of applications.

10. Environmental Sustainability

10.1 No environmental sustainability issues require to be raised in connection with this report.

11. Consultation

11.1 All organisations are consulted regarding recommendations of grant prior to the report being submitted to Committee.

Stephen West
Strategic Lead, Resources
Date: 25 August 2020

Person to Contact: Adrian Gray, Business Unit Finance Partner,
Corporate Functions
Telephone: (01389) 737838
E-mail: Adrian.gray@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix A: Detail of application for assessment
Appendix B: Additional information regarding
Reserves position and other funding activity of
Alternatives.

Background Paper: Grant Application Form
Dumbarton Common Good Budget 2020/21 – Council
Report 15 June 2020

Wards Affected: Ward 1, 2 and 3