

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Corporate Services Committee: 31 January 2007

Subject: Grant Application – Unit 23 – Skate Park

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the skate park grant application which was continued at the Corporate Services Committee in November 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 A grant application was reported to the Corporate Services Committee on 28 November 2006 in respect of Unit 23 skate park. The grant requested was for £11,000 to partially cover the purchase of bikes/ skates/ boards, helmets/pads, CCTV, ramp, amplifier/speakers and hand driers. The total cost of the project is estimated at £15,000 and the application is attached for information.
- 2.2 At the Committee, the officer's recommendation was for a nil grant award based upon the long term financial sustainability of the organisation as indicated within financial accounts provided by the organisation. The Committee asked that the application be continued pending further information being sought.
- 2.3 Officers have now visited Unit 23, had further discussions with the Project Manager and received further information.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 From 21 June 2005, HM Revenue and Customs have recognised the organisation as a charity and Unit 23 is used by a variety of organisations working with children and adults with challenging behaviour.
- 3.2 Strathclyde Police have also produced a report in December 2006 on behalf of a Unit 23 representative. This report analysed incidents reported to the Police in respect of complaints, disturbances and drinking in public places, filtered for calls related to youths. The periods analysed were June 2002/3 (prior to Unit 23) and June 2005/6. The analysis indicated that incidents had dropped by 34.9%. As stated within the report, there could be a number of reasons for this reduction such as the regeneration of the local area.
- 3.3 Cashflow analysis for 2006 and 2007 has been provided by the Skate Park, however, there are a few queries outstanding still to be cleared up.

- 3.4 The financial statement provided to 30 April 2006 states a high level of debt. From cashflow and bank statements provided, there does not appear to be a strategy to reduce this level of debt, although a partner organisation has advised they are willing to reduce the debt outstanding to them.
- 3.5 Unit 23 has applied for Non Domestic Rates (NDR) relief over the past few years. With charitable status, it is now entitled to full rates relief (if all conditions/ requests for information are met). However, there are outstanding rates prior to the date the charitable status was granted.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Unit 23 has a number of financial challenges and for the Council to be in a position to provide funding, the Head of Finance requires further clarification and assurances in a number of areas.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to note the work done in the area by Unit 23 and that this work and the benefits thereon are not being under-estimated in any way.
- 6.2 However, the organisation has a number of financial issues which still need further clarification. The Council must be sure that, in giving financial assistance to a good cause, the organisation is financially stable.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 **The Committee is invited to continue the grant application pending clarification on a number of outstanding issues.**

David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 19 January 2007

Wards Affected: 12

Appendix Application for Funding

Background Papers: Corporate Services Committee Minute – 28 November 2006

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