

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services

Council: 29 February 2012

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**Subject: Progress Report on the Members Advisory Committees (MACs) associated with the former Community Learning & Development Community Centres.**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide members with information regarding funds accumulated by Members Advisory Committees (MACs) and makes recommendations in regard to their future use.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 A number of MACs were established across West Dunbartonshire in 1998 to ensure community involvement in the running of community venues.
- 2.2 The Community Learning and Development (CL&D) service invited the five management committees of the Community Centres who had MACs i.e. Dalmuir, Concord, Glenhead, Hub and Clydebank East, to individual meetings to explore a future role for their group and to clarify the details around any funds held by them

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1 A number of issues about the future role of MACs have been identified in terms of:
- i. What is the current constitutional and operational position for each group ?
  - ii. What funds remained in bank accounts associated with these groups ? The financial picture is described below.
  - iii. How should these funds be treated ? As described below the situation for each committee is different and it is important to reflect the specific views of each group in determining the future of these funds.
- 3.2 Unfortunately there is no single response for all committees. Each group is at a different stage in terms of activity, constitution and funds. The following information provides a summary of the position in relation to each active committee:
- i. Dalmuir MAC has a constitution in place which was signed and dated in 2005. The committee is no longer operating and has no interest in claiming or spending against any funds.

- ii. Concord MAC does not have a constitution in place although they have indicated that they may want to continue to operate as a centre user group in the future.
- iii. Glenhead MAC does not have a constitution in place. The Group will write formally to the Manager Community Planning and Policy to set out their proposals for the use of equipment funds.
- iv. Hub MAC does have a constitution but it is not signed or dated. The Committee has indicated their intention to request transfer these funds to a new Committee once a constitution has been adopted, committee elected and bank account changed. The group has stated its intention to write to the Council to set out these proposals formally.
- v. Clydebank East MAC does have a constitution but it is not signed or dated. The committee has indicated its intention to request transfer of funds to Whitecrook Community Council as start up funding for the proposed new community owned Whitecrook Community Centre. If this is not possible the committee will request that the funds are spent by the Community Council for the benefit of those living in the local area and will write to Council to formally outline their plans.
- vi. Dalmonach has an active committee that was recently established. The committee would like to be able to access funds to support local activity.
- vii. It appears that there are no other committees attached to the remaining centres of Alexandria, Bonhill and Phoenix.

#### 4. People Implications

- 4.1 There are no people implications arising from this report.

#### 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The total funds held are described below, broken down for each centre.

	<b>Centre Funds</b>	<b>Equipment Funds</b>
Alexandria	£9,859.32	nil
Bonhill	£656.51	nil
Clydebank East	£3,030.20	£979.81
Concord	£14,876.42	nil
Dalmonach	£10,178.90	nil
Dalmuir	£2,633.16	£3,519.21
Glenhead	£3,332.50	£1,341.70
Hub	£,4,413.98	£4,546.37
Phoenix	£403.67	nil
	<b>£49,384.66</b>	<b>£10,387.09</b>

**5.2** The table above shows that the total funds currently lodged in these accounts are £59,771.75. It should be noted that these balances have been reconciled to the most recent bank statements held by WDC or in the absence of bank statements to the centre ledgers. Therefore all of these bank balances are subject to final verification.

**5.3** The position in relation to funds is described in constitutions and summarised as follows:

- i. All monies raised by or on behalf of the committee, e.g. fund raising donations, shall be applied to further the objectives of the community centre and for no other purpose.
- ii. Membership fees shall be lodged in the Centre bank account and come under the control of West Dunbartonshire Council.
- iii. A number of ex-Council staff and current staff are signatories to these accounts. Efforts are currently underway to contact these individuals to secure signatures that can release existing funds into the control of the Council so that a future use for remaining funds can be agreed.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** There is no benefit to funds lying dormant in bank accounts. This proposal and actions to be taken will ensure that these resources are brought back into use for the benefit of communities.

## **7. Equalities Impact**

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

## **8. Strategic Assessment**

**8.1** Engagement and provision of support to these groups will ensure a sustainable and future role for the groups in their local community.

## **9. Recommendations**

**9.1** It is recommended that:

- i. Work is completed to secure the use of these funds by contacting signatories to sign release documents that can be submitted to the relevant banks;
- ii. MACs are encouraged and supported to individually discuss and agree an appropriate future role;

- iii. All monies identified in these funds will be made available by the Council in response to a request from the appropriate MAC, management committee, or user group from the centres identified, to enable them to further the objectives of the community centre in accordance with their constitution or rules;
- iv. Where no formal MAC or management committee is in existence, the views of the community centre users are sought on how the identified funds can be best used to further the objectives of their centre.

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**Date: 19 February 2012**

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**Appendix:** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All wards apart from Lomond