

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Corporate Cultural Sub Committee : 9 June 2009

Subject: Homecoming Scotland 2009 – EventScotland Funding

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise members of a further round of grant assistance which has been made available by the Scottish Government through EventScotland to local authorities for St. Andrew's day 2009 events.

2. Background

- 2.1** Friday 08 May 2009 EventScotland advised local authorities that the Scottish Government, through Homecoming Scotland, had launched an initiative to round off the Year of Homecoming with a finale weekend of St. Andrew's Day celebrations (Appendix A refers).
- 2.2** In partnership with Scotland's local authorities, Homecoming Scotland is seeking to co-ordinate an enhanced programme of St. Andrew's Day celebrations across the country to mark the finale of the Homecoming year.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The Scottish Government and EventScotland have developed a joint funding opportunity for local authorities which seeks to extend St. Andrew's Day and maximise the impact of Homecoming Scotland's finale weekend.
- 3.2** The value of the fund is £400,000 and applications from local authorities are expected to be within the range of £5,000 to £50,000. It is expected that the fund will support in the region of 15 projects. Local authorities interested in making an application to the fund were required to register a note of interest by 22 May 2009. Such interest was registered on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council on 20 May 2009.
- 3.3** One of the core aims of the St. Andrews Day Homecoming Fund is to celebrate Scotland's contemporary and traditional culture via the development of a high quality programme of St Andrew's Day celebrations across Scotland between 26 and 30 November 2009.
- 3.4** The sum of £10,000 has already been allocated by the Council towards the provision of a Homecoming celebration event and it is therefore proposed that a bid for matchfunding be developed and submitted to EventScotland.

3.5 Having considered the event criteria as outlined by EventScotland it is likely that an application for a ceilidh type event with links to traditional Scottish food and drink would be in line with the type of events which they have in mind. It is therefore proposed to submit an application for funding of 3 evening ceilidh type events; one to be held in each of the three main geographical locations within the authority during the period 26 to 30 November 2009.

3.6 The application process and timetable is as follows;

8 May 2009	Programme fund launched
22 May 2009	Deadline for notes of interest
26 June 2009	Deadline for applications
26 June - 27 July 2009	Assessment period
28 July 2009	Funding announcements

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 The events proposed in Paragraph 3.5 above would be managed and co-ordinated by the Council's Events and Halls staff.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The cost of providing the programme of events outlined in Paragraph 3.5 above is estimated at approx £20,000.

5.2 Funding for the events would consist of £10,000 currently allocated by the Council for a Homecoming 2009 celebration and £10,000 from EventScotland; this assuming a successful funding application. It may also be possible to secure funding either in kind or by way of sponsorship from local organisations/traders.

5.3 Detailed income and expenditure projections will be developed as part of the submission to EventScotland should members agree to the proposed submission.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The risk attached to the ceilidh events is that the ticket sales are less than anticipated and the desired financial outcome is not achieved. The same risk is attached to any Homecoming event.

6.2 There is the risk that the Council is unsuccessful in securing a St. Andrew's Day Homecoming grant.

7. Conclusions & Officers' Recommendations

7.1 The Council is committed to staging a Homecoming 2009 celebration and the possibility of funding from EventScotland would enable an event to be hosted in each of the three main geographical locations of the authority.

7.2 The Sub-Committee is therefore requested to agree to the development of an application to EventScotland for funding to host a programme of 3 Homecoming 2009 events as outlined in Paragraph 3.5 of this report.

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Appendix: Appendix A : Summary of Homecoming 2009 Finale
Weekend : St. Andrew's Day Celebrations funding
opportunity

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All