

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee: 23 November 2011

Subject: Grant Applications

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on grants to voluntary organisations from the Trust Fund and Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

2. Background

- 2.1 Community Chest grants are administered by the West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteer Service (CVS) and are reported to Committee at the year end.
- 2.2 The Council continues to administer grants for organisations identified as Strategic Partners, Community Councils, Dumbarton Common Good and Trust Funds and the Elderly Welfare Christmas payout.
- 2.3 The Dumbarton Common Good budget 2011/12 was approved at Committee on 23 February 2011, with grant funding agreed for a number of organisations at that time.

3. Main Issues

Dumbarton Common Good Application

- 3.1 An application has been received for funding from the Strathleven Artizans. Details of the officer recommendation (totalling £5,800) are shown in Appendix A, with a recommendation that the application be referred to the CVS for further consideration under the Community Chest grants.
- 3.2 In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Dumbarton Common Good monies can only be legally used for purposes which benefit Dumbarton or its inhabitants. Information provided with the grant application for suggests that Dumbarton and its residents do receive benefit from this project.

Vale of Leven Trust Fund

- 3.3 An application has been received for funding from Age Concern Vale of Leven. Details of the officer recommendations (totalling £nil) is shown in Appendix A., with the application referred to the CVS for consideration under the Community Chest grants.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The total amount recommended for the applications within Appendix A is £5,800 from the Dumbarton Common Good Fund – this has not been budgeted to date. As at 31 October 2011, the Common Good budget projects that the projected surplus as at 31 March 2012 will be £15,912. Any further funding agreed above this will reduce the outstanding balance held by the Common Good going forward. It should also be noted that at the Special Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee on 20 October 2011 it was agreed that consideration would be given to further grants from eligible older people's groups, following the change in allocation of the older people's grant funding.

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 Council and Common Good Fund remain within budget, but also that the voluntary organisation is in a long term viable position. Organisations funded by the Council and the Common Good Fund must also comply with conditions of grant which cover issues such as discrimination, health and safety, insurance, etc.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

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

8. Strategic Assessment

8.1 The Council has identified four main strategic priorities for 2011/2012, namely Social & Economic Regeneration; Financial Strategy; Asset Management Strategy; and Fit for Purpose Services. Recommended grants are required to meet at least one of these priorities.

8.2 Both grant applications received fall into the Social and Economic Regeneration category and as such it is recommended the application are referred to the CVS for further consideration under the Council's community chest grants.

9. Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.1 The grants are assessed by officers and are recommended for approval following the assessment of financial need and favourable impact to residents within the Council area. The total recommendations shown within Appendix A are:
- (a) Dumbarton Common Good Fund - £5,800
 - (b) Vale of Leven Trust - £nil
- 9.2 It is further recommended that both applications are forwarded onto the CVS for consideration under the Community Chest grants.



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Date: 2 November 2011

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Appendix: Appendix A: Detail of applications for assessment

Background Papers: Grant applications

Wards Affected: n/a