

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Finance Committee held within the Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday, 30th June 1999.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald (LAB); Councillors Anthony Devine (LAB); Mary Campbell (LAB); Daniel McCafferty (LAB); Andrew White (LAB); Iain Robertson (SNP); Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP); John Trainer (LAB); James Bollan (IND); Craig McLaughlin (SNP); Ronald McColl (SNP); Margaret McGregor (SNP) and Connie O'Sullivan (LAB).

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Acting Chief Executive; Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council; Eric Walker, Director of Finance; Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer and Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors James Flynn (LAB) and James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP).

Councillor Anthony Devine in the Chair

TREASURY TRANSACTIONS

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Finance giving details of the treasury transactions of the Council for the period from 1st April 1999 to 31st May 1999.

INTEREST RATES

There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Finance advising of the interest rates during the period 1st April 1999 to 31st May 1999.

It was also noted after hearing the Convener, Councillor Devine, that since the report had been prepared, the base rate had fallen to 5%.

UPDATE ON FINANCE REVENUES COLLECTION

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance giving an update on the progress of the collection of the Council Tax levied.

Following discussion and having heard the Manager of Exchequer in answer to questions from Members, it was agreed that the report be noted and that more detailed information with respect to the reduction in Rebates Relief for the 1999/2000 financial year be provided in the report on this subject which will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

DUMBARTON COMMON GOOD FUND

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance providing details of actual and projected income and expenditure in respect of the Dumbarton Common Good Fund.

Having heard the Director of Finance it was noted that the Common Good Fund was consistently underspending and that if the trend continued during this financial year it was likely that a surplus in the region of £131,000 would be accumulated.

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) that the report be noted;
- (b) that requests for funds in respect of Millennium related events could be submitted by local organisations;
- (c) that details of the purposes for which the Common Good Fund has been used recently be circulated to Members; and
- (d) that a list of Trust Funds which are in existence within the West Dunbartonshire area also be circulated to Members.

FINANCE SEMINAR

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance advising of a proposed seminar on Local Government Finance.

It was agreed that a Finance Seminar be held during September as proposed in the report, it having been noted that the duration of the Seminar would be a maximum of half a day.

OVERVIEW ON THE 1995/96 AUDITS OF THE FORMER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance advising of the Accounts Commission's findings in relation to the 1995/96 audits of the former Regional and District Councils.

It was agreed that the contents of the report be noted.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER TO LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS INTERIM COMMITTEE (LLTT)

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance advising Members regarding the appointment of the Council's Director of Finance as Treasurer of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Interim Committee and seeking the approval of the Committee in relation thereto.

It was agreed to authorise the Director of Finance to act as Treasurer of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Interim Committee.

DUNBARTONSHIRE & LOMOND CAREERS SERVICE - STAFF PENSIONS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance informing Members of a request received from Dunbartonshire & Lomond Careers Service to sponsor their application for membership of the Strathclyde Pension Fund.

It was agreed to note the contents of the report and that a further update will be provided when fuller information is available.

COSLA - POLICY GUIDANCE ON FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance advising of guidance which has been received from COSLA, the purpose of which is to provide a policy framework for councils' funding of voluntary organisations.

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) that the guidance be noted; and
- (b) that a schedule of dates of Finance Committee meetings and related deadline dates by which applications for grants would require to be submitted be drawn up for the benefit of applicants.

In relation to a point which was raised by Councillor Calvert concerning applications for funding submitted to the West Dunbartonshire Partnership, it was agreed that a copy of the guidance from COSLA be forwarded to the Partnership with a letter requesting that the key principles contained therein be adopted and that meetings at which decisions will be taken on funding applications be well publicised in advance and open to the public to attend.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance in respect of further funding of grants to voluntary organisations.

The Committee first heard the Director of Finance in explanation of funding provided by the Council in terms of Section 83 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 as amended.

Thereafter the Director of Finance drew the attention of the Committee to various inaccuracies within the appendices to the report which required correction, as undernoted:-

- (1) on page 54 relative to Education grant applications, the figure of £46,000 given as the total of Previously Recommended Grants should read £64,461, the Balance Available

given as £109,997 should read £89,997 and the Balance Remaining given as £93,565 should read £73,565; and

- (2) on page 60 relative to Social Work grant applications, in the section headed Continued Applications the reference to "Children in Scotland" should be deleted and the names of two further organisations should be added, that of "Ben View Centre" and "Victim Support West Dunbartonshire".

Following discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) that the Recommended Grants in respect of Education, Social Work and General applications be approved as shown in Appendices I, II and III hereto;
- (b) that it be noted that the application from SACRO detailed under the list of Social Work grant applications had been continued by the Working Group in order that further information may be sought regarding the potential benefits for residents of West Dunbartonshire which may be brought about by awarding a grant to this organisation;
- (c) that the appropriate officer from the Social Work Department should attend future meetings of the Working Group and the Finance Committee in order to provide information with respect to specific applications if required;
- (d) that grants be awarded in relation to requests from the undernoted bodies as indicated below:-
- (i) West of Scotland Defence and Aerospace Network - £1,000
 - (ii) Gosport Borough Council - £50
- (c) that it be noted that the matter referred to in Section 5 of the report relative to a request for matching funding in respect of the Health for All Awards Scheme, was the subject of a separate report which was due to be considered as the next item of business; and
- (f) that the contents of the report otherwise be noted.

'HEALTH FOR ALL' AWARDS SCHEME 1999/2000

There was submitted a report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations on awards made under the 'Health for All' Grant Scheme in 1998/99 and seeking Council funding of £ 1 5,000 to match with a similar sum from Greater Glasgow Health Board together with funding from the Local Health Care Co-operative to continue the 'Health for All' Grant Scheme in 1999/2000.

It was agreed:-

- (a) that funding of £15,000 to match with a similar sum from Greater Glasgow Health Board to continue the 'Health for All' Grant Scheme in 1999/2000 be approved;
- (b) that the availability of the Scheme be promoted as soon as possible to allow groups sufficient time to submit applications; and
- (c) that two Members from the Clydebank area, Councillors Devine and Campbell, be nominated to sit on the 'Health for All' Grants Assessment Panel.

RATING REVIEW - ACTUALS OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 1997/98

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance advising Members of the above publication, copies of which had been placed in the Members' Libraries in Dumbarton and Clydebank.

It was agreed that the report be noted. It was also noted that if Members have any queries in relation to this matter they can contact the Finance Department in order to obtain further information.

IRRV - ANNUAL SCOTTISH CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION - 9-10 SEPTEMBER 1999 - DUNBLANE

There was submitted notification regarding the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Annual Scottish Conference and Exhibition to be held in Dunblane on 9th and 10th September, 1999.

Councillor Devine moved, seconded by Councillor Campbell, that he, as Convener of the Committee, or substitute, be authorised to attend the Conference. As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin moved, seconded by Councillor McColl, that the details of the Conference be noted. On a vote being taken, four Members voted for the amendment and nine Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONCESSIONARY RATE RELATING TO LETTING OF PROPERTIES - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

There was submitted a report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services advising of a proposed amendment to the scheme of concessionary discounts relating to rooms, committee rooms and halls previously agreed by Council.

It was noted that before this matter could be considered, suspension of standing order 18(c) would be required as the matter had previously been the subject of a decision taken by Council on 24 February, 1999. The Committee unanimously agreed to resolve to suspend Standing Order 18(c).

After hearing Councillor White it was agreed to recommend to Council:-

- (a) that Alcoholics Anonymous be included in the 100% Discount category of Concessionary Rates for the letting of properties; and
- (b) that the corresponding revision to Appendix II of the report to Council on 24 February, 1999 to that now shown in the revised Scheme, as appended to the report, be approved; and
- (c) that the organisation be reimbursed in respect of any charges which they have paid in connection with previous lets granted on the basis of a 75% discount.

APPENDIX 1

EDUCATION APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30 JUNE 1999				
Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Member/Officer Working Group	Finance Committee Decision
Youth Activities for Haldane	£1,845	Nil	£1,835	£1,835
Community Learning Scotland	£1,097	£450	£1,097	£1,097
Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education	£500	£500	£500	£500
Brucehill Girls Group	£1,095	Nil	£1,000	£1,000
Haldane Initiative for Youth Action (HIYA)	£52,000	Previously supported through urban aid funding	£12,000 (Wages) Alternative Accommodation	£12,000 (Wages) Alternative Accommodation

APPENDIX II

SOCIAL WORK GRANT APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30TH JUNE 1999

Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Working Group	Finance Committee Decision
Arthritis Care, Clydebank	£1350.00	£580.00	Continue	Continue
Children in Scotland	£2269.80	Nil	£1,500	£1,500
Clydebank Womens Support Group	£2160.00		Continue	Continue
Dalmonach Disabled Club	£3000.00	£1000.00	£1,000 (Social Work) £2,000 (Local Grants)	£1,000 (Social Work) £2,000 (Local Grants)
Daluir Multi-Storey Flats	£730.00	£780.00	£730	£730
Hear Here Youth Group	£812.00	Nil	£812	£812
Parkhall Disabled Club	£1160.00	£900.00	£900.00	£900.00
Partners in Advocacy	£400.00	Nil	£400	£400
Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied (PHAB)	£1455.00		£1,000	£1,000
SACRO	£1500.00	Nil	Continue	Continue
Scottish Old Age Pensions Assoc.	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
The Saturday Gang	£1378.99	£860.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Stepping Stones	£14801.00	Nil	Continue	Continue
West Dunbartonshire Friends of the Deaf	£500.00	Nil	£300	£300
Clydebank Forum on Disability	£2,270	£1,500	£2,000	£2,000

SOCIAL WORK PAYMENTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30TH JUNE 1999

Organisation	Payment Requested	Previous Payment	Recommendation of Working Group	Finance Committee Decision
Benview Centre	£17282.00	£4737	Continue	Continue
Clyebank East Tenants Association	£7000.00	£7000.00	£7000.00	£7000.00
Dumbarton Area Council on Alcohol	£88339.00	£84168.00	£84,168.00	£84,168.00
Family Mediation	£6910.00	£6190.00	£6,190	£6,190
Glasgow Marriage Counselling Service	£3500.00	£3500.00	£3,500	£3,500
One Plus	£9159.00	£6725.00	£9,000	£9,000
South Drumry Neighbourhood Association	£9167.60	£7000	£9,167	£9,167
Victim Support, West Dunbartonshire	£6600.00	£2500.00	Continue	Continue
Wing Hong Elderly Group	£6190.00	£3000.00	£3,500	£3,500
Women's Royal Voluntary Service	£11107.48	£8419.00	£8,419	£8,419
Ardlui (Parklands School)	£18,585.49	£17,958	£18,585.49	£18,585.49

APPENDIX III

LOCAL APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30th JUNE 1999

Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Member/Officer Working Group	Finance Committee Decision
Loch Lomond (Balloch) Highland Games	£10,000.00	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Haldane Leisure Barn Management Advisory Committee	£540.32	£100 Sept 96	£500	£500
Dumbarton & District Pipe Band	£5000	17/12/97	£2,500	£2,500
Dumbarton & District Juvenile Pipe Band	£2500		£500	£500
Whitecrook One O'Clock Gang	£200	£200 17/6/98	£200	£200
Faifley Monday Club	£240		£200	£200
Haldane & Jamestown Tenants Association	£100	£290 17/3/99	£100 to be ratified by Finance Committee	£100

GENERAL APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30th JUNE 1999

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Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Member/Officer Working Group	Finance Committee Decision
WoSDAN (West of Scotland Defence and Aerospace Network)	£1,000		Continue to Finance Working Group	£1,000
Scottish Environment LINK	Up to £500	Nil 17/3/99	Nil	Nil
Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa	Donation – not specified	Nil 17/3/99	Retain	Retain
Council for Music in Hospitals	£480	£450 16/9/98	£480	£480
Crimestoppers Scotland	£2,000	£500 22/4/98	£500 plus £200 (materials)	£500 plus £200 (materials)
Poverty Alliance	£5,150	£5,000 22/4/98	£5,150 (Condition)	£5,150 (Condition)

OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30th JUNE 1999

	Grant		Recommendation of Member/Officer	
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Organisation	Requested	Previous Grant	Working Group	Finance Committee Decision
Dumbarton Lions Club	£2,495		For noting	Noted
Health for All			£15,000	£15,000

COMMUNITY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30th JUNE 1999				
Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Member/Officer Working Group	Finance Committee Decision

Linnvale and Drumry Community Council	£500	£200 Int Payment – Oct 98	£300 Interim	£300 Interim
Bonhill & Dalmonach Community Council	£6,738	£200 – Oct 98 £4,225 Dec 98	£6,000	£6,000
Parkhall, North Kilbowie & Central	£360	£200 Int Payment – Oct 98	£360	£360
Balloch & Haldane Community Council	£3,115	£215 Dec 98	£500	£500

CONTINUED APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30th JUNE 1999

Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Member/Officer Working Group	Finance Committee Decision

Canada 2000	£3,600		Continue	Continue
Gosport Borough Council	Not specified		Continue to Finance Committee	£50
A Donald	Not specified		£50	£50

RETAINED APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 30th JUNE 1999				
Organisation	Grant Requested	Previous Grant	Recommendation of Member/Officer Working Group	Finance Committee Decision

Rural Forum	Not specified		Retain	Retain
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