

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 16 JUNE 2010

CUMNOCK & DOON VALLEY FURNITURE GIFT SCHEME

Report by Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the outcome of the annual evaluation of grant funded project - The Cumnock & Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme and to approve future funding arrangements for the period 2010/2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council currently funds the Cumnock & Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme.
- 2.2 The organisation has been in receipt of annual funding, which provides for general running costs in order that they can deliver their services. A Service Level Agreement between the organisation, Community & Learning Development and Cleansing Services was implemented during 2009/10.
- 2.3 Cleansing Services, which assumed responsibility for the project in April 2009 monitors the drawdown of grant funding, in accordance with Council's Accountancy Policy Bulletin 27.
- 2.4 The project is monitored to ensure project aims and objectives are being delivered in a sustainable manner. The Scheme is encouraged to seek opportunities for external funding.
- 2.5 The Scheme is being encouraged to engage with other community based voluntary organisations which operate in the re-use and recycling sector to encourage the sharing of best practice and to stimulate progress in moving towards greater independent financial stability, and become less reliant on grant funding.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 The organisation has been subject to a quarterly evaluation by Cleansing Services.
- 3.2 An evaluation for 2009/10 is appended to this Report as Appendix 1.

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- 4.1 The financial award made in 2009/10 was £9890 which met the costs of operating the scheme including vehicle, premises and administration costs. Based on a review on the costs incurred in the last financial year it is proposed that funding to the scheme be maintained at the 2009/2010 level of £9890.

- 4.2 The Service Level Agreement will be updated for the period 2010/11 to reflect the aims of both the organisation and the Council in terms of project delivery.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The management structure of the Cumnock & Doon Valley Gift Scheme has been reviewed substantially in the current financial year. Many of the established committee members have left the organisation, which has resulted in new committee members being tasked with addressing both the day to day operations of the Scheme whilst seeking to develop and evolve fresh opportunities for the Scheme's future development.
- 5.2 The new committee is keen to establish external links to the Community Recycling Network for Scotland, which will provide the Committee access to examples of good practice within the sector and will provide networking opportunity.
- 5.3 East Ayrshire Council have, to date, complied with and exceeded all European and national legislative waste obligations. In order to further landfill diversion within the authority, partnership working with local community based organisations provides an ideal vehicle to further the Council's aims in terms of waste re-use.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The aims of the project are consistent of the Community Plan: Improving the Environment, Aim 3 – Increase the amount of waste that is recycled and reused.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 East Ayrshire Council is required to further waste minimisation and recycling/composting as per the European Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC, the Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) and national recycling/composting targets.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Cabinet is invited to:
- i) to approve funding of £9890 for the Cumnock & Doon Valley Gift Scheme for the period 2010/2011; and
 - ii) to note the contents of this report

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Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

MR/DG/LS
3 June 2010

Background Papers

Nil

Appendix 1: EVALUATION 2009/10

| Organisation | Performance 2009/2010 | Funding Awarded 2009/2010 | Recommendation |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| <p>Cumnock and Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme have been in operation since 1994. The Schemes main function is to recycle furniture by accepting gifts of the furniture from the community and providing it free to other community members as required.</p> | <p>A Service Level Agreement for the current financial year has been agreed with the Scheme which details the operational arrangements for grant monitoring and also outlines the remits of Cleansing and Community Learning Development.</p> <p>Through the Service Level Agreement, Cleansing Services reimburse the group with the representative landfill tax savings and gate fee savings for all furniture redistributed. In the period April 2009 – end March 2010 a total of approximately 16 tonnes of furniture was diverted from Landfill with a rebate available to the group of £ 67.50 per tonne paid quarterly in arrears.</p> | <p>£9890</p> | <p>Funding of £9890 is approved for financial year 2010-11.</p> <p>That funding is released, quarterly subject to the completion of Project Monitoring Forms as agreed in the Service Level Agreement.</p> <p>The Scheme will be encouraged to maximise diversion from landfill and will receive recompense for its efforts by means of the savings resulting from landfill tax and gate fees being passed to the Scheme.</p> <p>The Scheme will be encouraged to further develop and reduce their reliance on Council funding by seeking assistance from appropriate bodies such as the Community Recycling Network Scotland (CRNS) who can provide expert knowledge, funding advice and access training and networking opportunities within the voluntary sector.</p> |

