

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 JUNE 2008

MATCH FUND BUDGET

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To recommend to Cabinet an award from the financial year 2008/2009 Match Fund Budget in respect of the following applications:

- Ayrshire Schools Football Association
- Dalmellington Band

2. BACKGROUND

Ayrshire Schools Football Association

- 2.1 The Ayrshire Schools Football Association has been established since 1985 with the primary aim of improving the mental, moral and physical development of school children through the medium of Association Football. The Association offers children still at primary and secondary school the opportunity to take part in football throughout Ayrshire and potentially gain squad selection.
- 2.2 The grant support sought would pay transport and hospitality costs for representing teams in the Scottish Cups and all costs associated with running football teams. It would also provide funds to help run cup competitions at all levels e.g. cost of pitches for finals. The grant would allow the Association to continue to organise football games and enable more pupils to attend. As this is an Ayrshire wide project, all transport, laundry, trophies, medals, cup finals and home fixture costs would be split between the three Ayrshire councils.
- 2.3 All pupils participating in football in Ayrshire would benefit to some degree. Success is measured in the number of teams participating and the number of pupils attending trials and success of representative teams.
- 2.4 The total cost of the project for the whole of Ayrshire is £4,000. A grant of £700 is requested from East Ayrshire Council's Match Fund Budget. Funding applications have also been made to North and South Ayrshire Councils for the same amount and these decisions are still pending. Full details of the funding package are provided below in paragraph 3.1 below.
- 2.5 The Association have been successful in securing a Match Fund grant award of £700 in 2007 (approved by the former Emergency Powers Committee - 5 July 2007) for a similar project.

Dalmellington Band

- 2.6 In 2003, Dalmellington Band and Community Music Hall was in need of a replacement building. Discussions ensued with the Council to find a suitable alternative site and an area of Council owned land was identified. With the assistance of the former Head of Economic Development and Property, the ground was 'secured' although it could not be gifted to the project in terms of statutory requirements to ensure best value. Thus, there was a requirement for the Band to meet the cost of acquiring the site which had been valued by the Council at £8,000. At that time of the negotiations, it had been indicated that a grant equivalent to the purchase price of the land would be available to the Band.
- 2.7 The Band secured a cocktail of funding, including Council funding (as set out in paragraph 3.3 below) and constructed the building which was officially opened in November 2005. Since that time, the Band has successfully operated from these new premises.
- 2.8 In recent months, however, it has come to light that the acquisition of the land has never been concluded and no grant from the Council has been forthcoming to facilitate the purchase of the ground. This grant award would, therefore, fund the purchase of the land from the Council.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Ayrshire Schools Football Association

- 3.1 The total cost of the project for the whole of Ayrshire in 2008 is £4000. The Association is at present trying to secure funding from North and South Ayrshire Councils with the Association itself making a contribution of £2,600 to the project.
- 3.2 Following an assessment of the application, the Monitoring and Administration Officer of Neighbourhood Services recommends a Match Fund award of £700, representing 17.5% of the overall project costs. However, the Association should be asked to submit fully audited accounts prior to any award of grant being paid to the organisation.

Dalmellington Band

- 3.3 The total cost of the construction of the Band Hall was £157,000 with funding received in 2003/04 from the Council's Match Fund Budget (£6,000), the former Social Inclusion Partnership (£36,000), the Minerals Trust (£105,000) and SCORE Environment (£10,000). The Council's contribution to the construction of the building therefore equates to 3.8% of the costs.
- 3.4 A further grant award of £8,000 for the purchase of the land would take the Council's total contribution to £14,000 which equates to 8.5% of the overall project costs (£157,000 + £8,000 = £165,000).

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1 A Risk Assessment has been undertaken for the Ayrshire Schools Football Association project, as part of the Match Fund assessment, which has established satisfactory levels of sustainability for the project.

4.2 In the case of Dalmellington Band and Community Music Hall, this is effectively a retrospective application and there are no revenue implications for the Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In 2008/09 the Match Fund budget has an allocation of £50,540 together with a small carry forward from the 2007/08 budget (£338.75) giving a total budget of £50,878.75. The recommended awards to the projects outlined in this report would leave a balance of £42,178.75

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In relation to the Dalmellington Band Hall, the property transaction cannot be concluded until funds are secured for its purchase.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

7.1 The projects being considered for grant assistance will assist in meeting the themes of the Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- i) approve an award of £700 to the Ayrshire Schools Football Association subject to fully audited accounts being submitted;
- ii) Approve an award of £8,000 to Dalmellington Band;
- iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

6 June 2008

Members wishing further information should contact Alison Brown, Developer Contributions Officer on 01563 576253