

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 2 JULY 2008

CORE FUNDING PAYMENTS TO EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS, SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND FUNDING FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

Report by Depute Chief Executive/ Executive Director of Corporate Support

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to make payments to external bodies, partnerships and special projects in the financial year 2008/2009.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The amount allocated by the Council in the financial year 2008/2009 budget for core funding payments to external partnerships, subscriptions to external bodies and funding for special projects is £365,220.
- 2.2 Expenditure under this budget heading relates to operational activities of the Planning and Economic Development Service of the Department of Corporate Support and includes subscriptions to external organisations with which the Council wishes to associate corporately, but whose activities relate to the economic development and regeneration functions of the Council. These are summarised in Table 1.

3. PROPOSED EXPENDITURE IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09

- 3.1.1 Tables 2 to 5 categorise the areas of expenditure, identify the individual projects and show both the approved expenditure and the out-turn in 2007/08 and also the proposed expenditure in 2008/09.

(1) **Core Funding to External Partnerships (Table 2)**

These partnerships are entered into by the Council with other local or national partners to deliver outcomes in respect of strategic policy objectives. These funding relationships fall within the scope of "Following the Public Pound" and as such are subject to Service Level Agreements and annual monitoring reports to Committee.

(2) **Subscriptions to External Bodies (Table 3)**

This category includes subscription payments to organisations which deliver a specific specialist service on a consortium basis (normally available to all local authorities in the former Strathclyde area). The Council's relationship with these organisations is set within the context of "Following the Public Pound" or the Council's own Accounting Policy Bulletin APB27.

In addition, this category includes subscriptions to organisations both local and national and whose sphere of activity aligns with the activities of the Council, where it is considered relevant and appropriate that the Council maintains that membership. Such

memberships are included in the list of Affiliations to Outside Organisations, as approved annually by the Cabinet.

(3) **Funding for Special Projects (Table 4)**

This section is no longer required as it is proposed that the tourism related projects be transferred to the dedicated tourism budget and the Ayrshire & Arran Woodlands Partnership no longer operates.

(4) **Match Funding for ESF Funded Projects (Table 5)**

Like the projects listed at (3) above, these projects are developed in partnership with other organisations and have specific objectives and proposed outcomes. However, these projects are part funded by grant assistance through the European Social Fund (ESF) in respect of which the Council is the lead partner and must demonstrate the availability of match funding.

4. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09

4.1 Employability Projects

The attached tables show payments in 2007/08 to the following projects, all of which are focussed on the provision of training, work experience and other support to assist people to enter the labour market:-

- BTTC (Business Technology & Training Centre)
- CONDUIT
- EASY (East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth)
- East Ayrshire Job Rotation
- East Ayrshire Woodlands

Approval was given by Cabinet at its meeting on 25 June 2008 to merge the following 4 projects into a single employability service:-

- BTTC (Business Technology & Training Centre)
- CONDUIT
- EASY (East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth)
- Working for Families

This integrated service has been approved for EU grant funding of £2,828,134 under the Lowland & Uplands Scotland (LUPS) European Structural Funds Programmes 2007/13.

The arrangements for the provision of Council match funding for the employability service have been reviewed and an additional allocation of £300,000 of match funding was set aside in the 2008/09 budget, approved by the Council on 13 February 2008 and confirmed by the Cabinet on 25 June 2008. Provision for match funding of £191,300 for the Skills Development and Employability service and of £108,700 for Job Rotation has been made from this budget (total £300,000).

Accordingly, payments to East Ayrshire Woodlands and Job Rotation, which are to be funded from the Funding to External Bodies and Partnerships Budget 2008/09, now amount to a total of £141,300, as

detailed in Tables 2 and 5.

The amount allocated to East Ayrshire Woodlands has increased by £65,000 due to a requirement to meet the ongoing costs of maintenance liabilities for the Millennium Forest, for which no provision was made at the outset.

The allocation for East Ayrshire Job Rotation from this budget has been reduced from £31,300 to £26,300, although the total funding allocation from the Council to the project has increased to £135,000. This increase is due to the impact of changing European Funding eligibility rules and the increase has been funded from the Match Funding budget of £300,000, as noted above.

4.2 Tourism Budget

At its meeting on 4 June 2008, the Cabinet considered a report on "Tourism – The Way Ahead in East Ayrshire 2008 to 2015". This report noted the proposal to establish a dedicated tourism budget and remitted this to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support.

Work will be undertaken to achieve this over the course of the next few months and a separate report submitted to Cabinet, as appropriate.

4.3 Business Excellence

In previous years, the Council has provided grant funding of £1,500 towards the costs of the Ayrshire Business Excellence Awards. As this is a partnership involving several organisations, it is suggested that as has been the case with other organisations in previous years, it would be in order for the Council to decline the opportunity to provide funding for the 2009 competition.

4.4 Darvel Music Festival

Darvel Music Festival, under the auspices of Darvel Improvement Group, has been staging music events since 2002. The Council has provided funding from both the Local Community Grants Budget and other budgets within the Council both on application in advance and in retrospect, the latter to assist the festival meet its financial obligations in excess of its budget for each event.

Following consideration of the last award made to the Festival, the interim Northern Local Grants Committee, at its meeting in February 2008, agreed that consideration be given to reviewing the most appropriate funding mechanism for any further applications for the Festival, as it was considered that the Local Committee Grants Scheme was not the most appropriate funding vehicle. Consideration is at present ongoing in terms of the potential funding sources, but at the time of writing this report, no grant applications have been made to the Council for funding support. Consideration has been given to developing along with the Festival Committee, a revised business plan looking at a 3-5 year horizon, to determine the financial viability of the Festival.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The organisations and projects to which the Council provides funding support are all engaged in activities which contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the East Ayrshire Community Plan, particularly supporting the key themes of Improving Opportunities and Improving the Environment. The Council's funding also supports the achievement of the objectives of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and the East Ayrshire Local Plan. The Council's funding contributions fall within the categories of:-

- (1) contributions towards the operational costs of wider partnerships in which the Council plays a major role (Table 2);
- (2) subscriptions to external bodies which have an important national lobbying role in strategic policy matters or which provide specialist advisory or consultative support to the Council (Table 3); and
- (3) direct funding contributions towards the cost of specific projects which the Council delivers in partnership with other organisations (Tables 4 and 5).

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The indicative allocations identified in this report will be funded from the budget for 2008/09 approved by Cabinet. It should be noted that year on year there are variations in the amounts actually paid, particularly in relation to subscriptions and these will be accommodated within the budget.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. Appropriate agreements in terms of "Following the Public Pound" and "APB 27" will be completed with each of the organisations and projects supported and performance will be monitored at an appropriate level and reported to Committee, as required.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 That the Cabinet approves:-

- (1) the allocations to external partnerships and special projects in accordance with the proposals set out at Section 3 and the appendices attached to this report, and
- (2) note that a further report will be submitted on the establishment of a Tourism Budget, as appropriate.

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Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

05.06.2008/jrs/emck

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information, please contact JOHN SPOONER, Business Development and Tourism Manager, on Extension 6143.

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Table 1

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE

AREA OF EXPENDITURE	APPROVED FOR 2007/2008	OUT-TURN FOR 2007/2008	PROPOSED FOR 2008/2009
Core Funding to External Partnerships	236,500	209,204	229,630
Subscriptions to External Bodies	22,405	16,708	23,620
Funding for Special Projects	40,000	40,000	37,500
Match Funding for ESF Funded Projects	41,300	41,300	26,300
Contingency	25,015	25,000	48,170
TOTALS	365,220	332,212	365,220

Table 2

CORE FUNDING PAYMENTS TO EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP	APPROVED FOR 2007/2008	OUT-TURN FOR 2007/2008	PROPOSED FOR 2008/2009
Pre-vocational Training / East Ayrshire Strategy for Youth	20,000	20,000	0
Conduit Project	30,000	30,000	0
East Ayrshire Woodlands	50,000	50,000	115,000
East Ayrshire Towns	20,000	20,000	20,000
VisitScotland	70,000	70,000	70,000
Ayrshire Structure Plan Joint Committee	33,000	5,232	10,000
West of Scotland Archaeological Service	13,500	13,972	14,630
TOTALS	236,500	209,204	229,630

Table 3

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES

EXTERNAL BODY	APPROVED FOR 2007/2008	OUT-TURN FOR 2007/2008	PROPOSED FOR 2008/2009
Ayrshire Association of Business Women	150	150	150
Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry	700	700	750
Business Excellence Ayrshire	1,500	1,500	0
The Alliance (formerly the Coalfields Communities Campaign)	3,200	3,252	5,250
Glasgow Prestwick Airport : Consultative Committee	500	500	550
SCDI (Scottish Council Development & Industry)	1,850	1,798	1,900
SLAED (Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development)	500	480	550
SLIMS : Strathclyde Labour Market	2,900	2,983	3,070
West of Scotland European Forum	5,850	0	6,000
Planning Aid	2,500	2,500	2,500
Ayrshire Architectural Heritage Trust	750	750	750
Heritage Building Preservation Trust	750	750	750
Scottish Civic Trust	545	545	600
Scottish Housing and Town Planning	150	150	150
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society	200	250	250
Scottish Association of Building Standards Managers	360	400	400
TOTAL	22,405	16,708	23,620

Table 4

FUNDING FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

SPECIAL PROJECT	APPROVED FOR 2007/2008	OUT-TURN FOR 2007/2008	PROPOSED FOR 2008/2009
Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Partnership Project	5,000	5,000	0
Burns an' a' That Festival	15,000	15,000	
2008 Holy Fair in Mauchline	20,000	20,000	
2008 Events at Dean Castle			7,500
2009 Holy Fair in Mauchline			20,000
2009 Concert at Dean Castle			
Cumnock Highland Games	0		10,000
TOTALS	40,000	40,000	37,500

Table 5

MATCH FUNDING FOR ESF FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT	APPROVED FOR 2007/2008	OUT-TURN FOR 2007/2008	PROPOSED FOR 2008/2009
B TTC Dalmellington	10,000	10,000	0
Job Rotation	31,300	31,300	26,300
TOTALS	41,300	41,300	26,300