

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 27 AUGUST 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 North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvements Group (NWKEIG).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Group was established in 2006 to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and to advance the education of the public in this respect.
- 2.2 The Group has been developing a landscaping and public art project associated with the public open space bounded by Wardneuk Drive and Western Road, Kilmarnock, which will create a small park for the residents of the North West Kilmarnock area, in particular those of Onthank, Knockinlaw and Altonhill.

3. LANDSCAPING AND PUBLIC ART PROJECT

- 3.1 The NWKEIG is currently undertaking consultation with residents of Wardneuk Drive asking for their comments on the architects drawings and ideas for this site. Responses from the residents will be used in the final project design and incorporated into any necessary planning application.
- 3.2 The ground is owned by Housing Services and will be leased to the group at no charge, subject to planning consent being approved. The Group has confirmed that they will be responsible for maintenance of the land and all future maintenance costs will be met by future grant applications and fundraising.
- 3.3 The grant for the development of the park will contribute to the cost of a landscape architect to complete detailed designs based on the Group's original proposals and to engage a landscaping company to carry out the physical works which will include new paths, improved planting and additional seating.
- 3.4 The total cost of the project is £32,475 and a grant of £7,500 is sought from the Match Fund Budget. Full details of the funding package are provided below in paragraph 4.1.
- 3.5 As part of the consultation exercise, local Members have been fully consulted in the process.

4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The total cost of the project is £32,475. The Group has secured funding from the Community Planning Partnership Community Regeneration Fund (£15,000) and the Big Lottery Fund, Awards for All (£9,975).
- 4.2 Following an assessment of the application, the Assistant Operations Manager within Outdoor Amenities recommends a Match Fund award of £7,500, representing 23% of the overall project costs.

5. SUSTAINABILITY

- 5.1 A Risk Assessment has been undertaken as part of the Match Fund assessment process which has established a low risk scoring. Satisfactory levels of sustainability have also been established.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The grant award can be fully met from the 2008/09 Match Fund budget. This would leave a balance of £34,678.75.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no policy/legal implications arising from this report.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 8.1 The project will assist in meeting the Improving the Environment theme of the Community Plan.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the award of £7,500 to the North West Kilmarnock Environmental Improvement Group on the condition that planning permission is approved and that a lease is agreed with the Council.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support
EM/KD/IB

8 August 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

Members wishing further information should contact Alison Brown, Developer Contributions Officer on 01563 576573.

Implementation Officer – Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Economic Development