

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 29 JUNE 2011

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING - VIRTUAL INCLUSION PARTNERS (VIPs)

Joint Report by the Executive Directors of Finance and Corporate Support and Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of a grant application received from Virtual Inclusion Partners (VIPs) and to make recommendations accordingly.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Virtual Inclusion Partners (VIPs) are registered as a company by guarantee and as a charity. The aim of the organisation is to carry on activities which will improve the lives of people in East Ayrshire with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder by:-

- providing recreational activities, social learning opportunities;
- promoting the advancement of citizen leadership; and
- doing this without bias to race, creed or gender and by seeking to positively promote equal opportunities.

- 2.2 In financial year 2010/11, Community Learning and Development awarded a grant of £10,099 for literacy classes in the community for adults with a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder to VIPs. Social Work Community Care Services also awarded the organisation a total of £4,436.77 to support additional activities and groups organised and managed by VIPs in the community for adults with a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder.

3. DETAILS OF GRANT REQUESTED

- 3.1 VIPs have recently been granted a 3 year lease by East Ayrshire Council for the former WRVS building at 4 St Marnock Place, Kilmarnock (known as "The Hut"). VIPs would like to make the building more habitable in order to better organise activities in the premises. The grant applied for is for one-off works which are listed below:-

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| • metal safety cage for LPG gas containers | - | £2,000 |
| • paving for the front of the building | - | £1,000 |
| • metal security grills for windows | - | £1,000 |
| • installation of an access ramp | - | £ 500 |
| • clean moss from the roof | - | £ <u>500</u> |

Total cost £5,000

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

- 4.1** The Assessing Department have advised that the grant will allow the organisation to have a habitable permanent base from which it can organise social and educational activities for its members. The Assessing Department have recommended funding as having a permanent base will enable the organisation to increase the range and number of activities and increase their income. It will also reduce revenue expenditure such as letting charges and hire of premises.
- 4.2** VIPs originally asked for £500 to clear moss off the roof but have since been advised by the Assessing Officer, in consultation with the Health and Safety Section, that this would not be feasible as the roof tiles contain asbestos and as a part of their safe management, they should not be disturbed.
- 4.3** The terms of the lease require the group to carry out any repairs and maintenance to the building and to ensure the building is wind and watertight.
- 4.4** The Group have applied for a grant of £5,000. The application has been assessed and it is recommended by the Assessing Department that a grant of £4,500 be given (less the £500 for the cleaning of moss from the roof).

5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There is sufficient funding within the Central Services budget if Members were so minded to support the application. This funding is available as a one-off amount earmarked as part of the year end closure process for 2010/11.
- 5.2** The application does not fit the criteria to qualify for funding under the Local Committee Grants Scheme as it is an organisation supporting people throughout the whole of the East Ayrshire area.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** The application addresses priorities in the Promoting Lifelong Learning Community Plan 2011-2015 Action Plan by enabling VIPs to improve the community capacity of their organisation. The upgrading of premises will enable the group to deliver social and educational activities for a key target group of the population. The application also addresses the strategic priority of the Improving Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2011-15 as the upgrading of the premises will enable VIPs to deliver activity that will promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities or an autistic spectrum disorder.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1** The grant has been assessed in accordance with the Council's procedures.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (i) approve a grant of £4,500 for VIPs; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Alex McPhee
Executive Director of Finance &
Corporate Support

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational &
Social Services

30 May 2011
JMcG/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant application: Grant Ref: CG 4864.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Christine Baillie, Senior Administrative Officer, on Telephone Number (01563) 576129. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Telephone Number (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.