

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 9 MARCH 2011

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FUND

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1.0 PURPOSES OF REPORT

- 1.1 (i) To present to Cabinet, for determination, a summary of grant applications seeking funding support over £15,000 from the Developer Contributions Fund as follows:
- (a) Kilmarnock Tennis Club – Ref: DCG/09/012,
 - (b) Craufurdland Community Activities Ltd – Ref: DCG/10/004, and
 - (c) Townholm Bowling Club – Ref: DCG/10/002
- (ii) To submit for information a list of those applications determined under delegated authority since 23rd June, 2010

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 23 June 2010, Cabinet considered a report on the Developer Contributions Fund and Developer Contributions Sports, Leisure and Recreation Fund. Amongst other matters, Cabinet agreed revised governance arrangements for the operation of the Developer Contributions Fund including that, following appropriate assessment of the project application, determination of applications for grant funding in excess of £15,000 would be referred to Cabinet for determination.

The necessary revisions to the Scheme of Delegation were approved by Council at its meeting on 23 September, 2010.

- 2.2 At a subsequent meeting on 2 December 2010 with the Leaders of the SNP, Labour and Conservative Groups and the Planning Spokesperson, the process for ascertaining the views of Elected Members was agreed.

The Leaders of the respective Groups and the Chairs of the Northern Area Local Planning Committee and the Southern Area Local Planning Committee, as appropriate, will be informed on a regular basis of the applications that have been assessed and will be provided with :

- a summary of the applications;
- copies of the assessment reports and information on the proposed sources of funding to be used in the event of the applications being approved.

The Group Leaders will then discuss the applications, as appropriate, with their respective members and the outcome of those discussions will inform a meeting with officers that is provisionally to be held on a four weekly cycle.

- 2.3 On 4 February 2011, the first such meeting was held with the Elected Members and their views on a number of applications obtained.
- 2.4 In relation to applications seeking Developer Contributions funding of over £15,000, the views expressed are summarised in Section 3 below.
- 2.5 The applications seeking funding of less than £15,000, considered at this meeting all had positive assessments and there was a consensus of support for all the applications. The list of these applications is provided in Section 4 below and the letters of approval have been issued.

3.0 APPLICATIONS SEEKING FUNDING IN EXCESS OF £15,000 – SUMMARY

3.1 (a) Kilmarnock Tennis Club – Ref: DCG/09/012

- 3.1.1 Summary Description of Application : The proposed project is to provide floodlighting (two courts) and to replace fencing. This will allow the Club to extend both the playing day and the playing season.

Kilmarnock Tennis Club has indicated that the cost of floodlighting two courts (July 2010) is £20,844 including VAT and that the costs of floodlighting four courts would be £29,504 including VAT. The unit cost of floodlighting four courts is therefore, pro rata, significantly less than the costs of floodlighting two courts.

Kilmarnock Tennis Club has further indicated that, in the event of this application being successful, the Lawn Tennis Association has indicated that it will be give consideration to supporting the additional floodlighting proposal.

- 3.1.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Project and Funding Package Proposed by Applicant : The total estimated cost as per the application is £24,900 and the proposed funding package is as follows:-

Club's own contribution	-	£5,000
Tennis Ayrshire	-	£1,000 (awarded but has time condition attached)
Developer Contributions	-	£18,900

- 3.1.3 Previous Developer Contributions Award to applicant : No previous monies from the Developer Contributions Fund have been awarded to this organisation.
- 3.1.4 Assessment Outcome : The assessment is positive. The project will provide further recreational use of the tennis courts particularly during the evening as well as participating in a safe environment.

- 3.1.5 Elected Members Views : The consensus view of the Elected Members at the meeting of 4th February, 2011 is that the application should be supported.
- 3.1.6 Proposed Source(s) of Funding from Developer Contributions : In the event of the application being approved, it is proposed to fund the full amount of £18,900 from Free Monies in the Northern Area Fund.
- 3.1.7 Recommendation : That the application for £18,900 is approved.

3.2 (b) Craufurdland Community Activities Ltd – Ref: DCG/10/004

- 3.2.1 Summary Description of Application : Craufurdland Community Activities Limited is a not-for-profit community organisation with company limited by guarantee status, established to explore ways of developing the natural resources of Craufurdland Estate for the benefit of local communities including educational, recreational, leisure, bio-diversity and heritage pursuits.

A major phased project is planned that complements the themes of the East Ayrshire Outdoor Access Strategy of :

- connecting and meeting the needs of sustainable and healthy communities;
- expanding the area's tourism and recreational potential;
- helping to promote economic and environmental regeneration; and
- being part of an integrated sustainable transport network.

In total the project as currently planned has an estimated cost of £552,000.

One of the key elements of the overall project is to improve the cycle paths and walkways linking the Estate more effectively to Kilmarnock and through Fenwick and Waterside to the core cycling and path networks at Whitelee Wind Farm. That project is subject of an application for funding to the Scottish Rural Development Programme and opportunities for funding support from sportscotland, Heritage Lottery Fund and SCORE are being explored.

The application to the Developer Contributions Fund is for funding towards the construction of a new adventure play centre and an adult fitness trail. These facilities will be free of charge and will be open to the public.

- 3.2.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Project and Funding Package Proposed by Applicant : The total estimated cost of this particular project is £51,609.

Applicants contribution	-	£ 2,800
Ayrshire LEADER	-	£25,704 (successful)
Developer Contributions	-	£23,105

- 3.2.3 Previous Developer Contributions Award to Applicant : No previous monies from the Developer Contributions Fund have been awarded to this organisation.

3.2.4 Assessment Outcome : The assessment is positive on the basis that the project will contribute to improvements in the health and wellbeing of the local community. It also has potential to generate more visitors to the area which in itself will contribute to economic growth.

3.2.5 Elected Members Views : The consensus view of the Elected Members at the meeting on 4 February, 2011 was that this specific application should not be supported at this point in time. The view was expressed that there was a danger that this stand-alone element of the wider project might fail to attract sufficient usage to justify the expenditure unless the wider project to improve the links within the Estate and to the gateways to Dean Castle Country Park and to Whitelee via Fenwick was implemented.

The Members were of the view that further discussions should be held with Craufurdland Community Activities Ltd to establish the progress being made regarding funding for the wider project and that if this was positive, then a new application to support the stand alone project or for other appropriate aspects of the wider project would be considered.

3.2.6 Since the meeting with the Members, information has been received that Craufurdland Community Activities Ltd and Craufurdland Ltd have submitted a further application to Ayrshire LEADER seeking funding support for the preparation of a Marketing Plan and Branding Exercise. The funding package for that proposal includes confirmed funding support from East Ayrshire Council (Business Grant).

It has been indicated that a decision on the SRDP application is expected shortly.

3.2.7 This additional information has been provided to the Group Leaders and the Chair of the Northern Area Local Planning Committee, who have confirmed their earlier view that the application should not be approved at this time, as recorded in paragraph 3.2.5 above.

3.2.8 Proposed Source(s) of Funding from Developer Contributions : If the view of Cabinet is to approve the application, it would be proposed to fund the full amount of £23,105 from free monies in the Northern Area Fund.

3.2.9 Recommendation : Notwithstanding the outcome of the Officer Assessment and having taken into account the views of Members it is recommended, on balance, that the application for £23,105 is not approved.

3.3 (c) **Townholm Bowling Club – Ref: DCG/10/002**

3.3.1 Summary Description of Application : The project is to totally refurbish the existing clubhouse. Works include fitting of new ceilings, wall linings, doors, windows, electrics, lighting, plumbing, tiling, furnishings and decoration.

3.3.2 Estimated Cost of Proposed Project and Funding Package Proposed by Applicant : The total estimated cost of the project is £29,500.

Club's own contribution	-	£2,900
Local Grants	-	£1,500 (maximum)
Developer Contributions	-	£25,100

3.3.3 Previous Developer Contributions Award to applicant : No previous monies from the Developer Contributions Fund have been awarded to this organisation.

3.3.4 Assessment Outcome : The assessment is positive, although qualified, on the basis that the upgrade of the Club house will allow year round use to be made of it, encouraging extended participation of both junior and senior members.

In addition it will provide an enhanced facility which could be used by the local community, generating revenue for the Club, although this would be subject to the provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 in respect of the operation of premises' licences for private members' clubs, including the requirement for non-members attending Club functions to be signed in and accompanied/supervised by a Club member and the limiting of the use of the premises for non-member functions (birthdays, anniversaries, etc) to twelve occasions per year. Alternatively, the Club could consider an upgrade to their current premises licence to enable them to operate on a commercial basis, but this would be likely to incur additional cost to the Club and would probably also necessitate the completion of the proposed works in order to bring the premises up to the required standard.

3.3.5 Elected Members Views : The consensus view of the Elected Members at the meeting on 4 February 2011 was that the application should not be supported. The view was expressed that applications for funding support from Bowling Clubs should in the future focus on seeking funding support for those elements of the project that link directly to improving the sport facilities.

3.3.6 Proposed Source(s) of Funding from Developer Contributions : If the view of Cabinet is to approve the application, it would be proposed to fund the full amount of £25,100 from free monies in the Northern Area Fund.

3.3.7 Recommendation : Having taken account of the Officer Assessment and of Members views, it is recommended that the application for £25,100 is not approved.

4.0 SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS SEEKING FUNDING LESS THAN £15,000 AND DETERMINED BY DELEGATED AUTHORITY

4.1 The following applications which sought funding of less than £15,000 have been assessed positively and have the support of the Elected Members. They have therefore been approved under delegated authority:-

Dunlop and Lugton Park Association Ref: DCG/10/001 £10,000.00

- Craufurdland Community Activities Ltd – not to approve the application for funding; and
- (b) Notes the position summarised in Section 4 of this report regarding the applications approved under delegated authority.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

DAH/ jrs 02.03.2011

BACKGROUND PAPERS

(1) Applications Forms to the Developers Contributions Fund

(2) Assessment Reports on the Applications

Members wishing further information should contact Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Economic Development at Council Offices, Croft Street, Kilmarnock on (01563 576767)

Implementation Officer – David Hewet, Senior Policy Adviser (01563 503234)