

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### NORTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE – 25 FEBRUARY 2009

#### PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with information on the previous funding of hanging baskets, Gala Days and Christmas lights by the Grants Committee.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Northern Local Grants Committee held on 6 November 2008 the Committee asked for a report to be submitted, prior to the new financial year, when consideration would be given to determining the Committee's priorities and how best to fund hanging baskets, Gala Days and Christmas lights in financial year 2009/10.

#### 3. FUNDING 2007/08

- 3.1 The tables below give details of awards made by the Northern Local Community Planning Forum in respect of hanging baskets, Gala days and Christmas lights for financial year 2007/08.

#### 3.2 Hanging Baskets 2007/08

| ORGANISATION                             | AWARD     | DETAILS OF APPLICATION   |
|--|-----------|--|
| Fenwick Community Council                | £472.28   | 22 baskets - filled, delivery and battery for plant watering machine |
| Galston Community Council                | £1,694    | 30 baskets, 10 tubs and maintenance                                  |
| Newmilns and Greenholm Community Council | £1,246.99 | 35 baskets, brackets and replace baskets and maintenance             |
| Darvel Improvement Group                 | £753.85   | 14 filled baskets, plants, compost and maintenance                   |

This is a total of £4,167.12 which was 8.8% of the total budget for 2007/08.

### 3.3 Gala Days 2007/08

| ORGANISATION                  | AWARD   | DETAILS OF APPLICATION          |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Fenwick Community Association | £1,023.75   | Fenwick Gala Day and Jazz Night |
| Kilmaurs Gala Day Committee   | £2,200.00   | Kilmaurs Gala Day               |
| Newmilns Gala Committee       | £3,000.00 (£1,000 returned as unspent monies in January 2009) | Newmilns Gala Day               |

This is a total of £6,223.75 which was 13% of the total budget for 2007/08.

### 3.4 Christmas Lights 2007/08

| ORGANISATION                             | AWARD     |
|--|-----------|
| Galston Community Council                | £1,750.00 |
| Fenwick Community Council                | £2,006.60 |
| Darvel and District Community Council    | £1,141.03 |
| Newmilns and Greenholm Community Council | £1,607.29 |

This is a total of £6,504.92 which was 13.7% of the total budget for 2007/08

## 4. Funding 2008/09

4.1 The tables below give details of awards made by the Northern Local Grants Committee in respect of hanging baskets, Gala days and Christmas lights for financial year 2008/09.

### 4.2 Hanging Baskets 2008/09

| ORGANISATION                             | AWARD     | DETAILS OF APPLICATION  |
|--|-----------|---|
| Galston Community Council                | £1,610.85 | 34 baskets, liners and maintenance  |
| Fenwick Community Council                | £594.60   | 22 baskets; filled and delivery   |
| Newmilns and Greenholm Community Council | £1,000    | Supply of plants for hanging baskets and tubs, supply of 1 tub, 2 baskets and maintenance |
| Darvel Improvement Group                 | £852.75   | 14 baskets, bedding plants and compost  |

This is a total of £4,058.20 which was 11.5% of the total budget for 2008/09.

#### 4.2 Gala Days 2008/09

| ORGANISATION                          | AWARD     | DETAILS OF APPLICATION          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Fenwick Community Association         | £1,096.91 | Fenwick Gala Day and Jazz Night |
| Darvel and District Community Council | £2,490.00 | Darvel Gala Day                 |
| Newmilns Gala Committee               | £1,760.47 | Newmilns Gala Day               |

This is a total of £5,347.38 which was 15% of the total budget for 2008/09.

#### 4.3 Christmas Lights 2008/09

| ORGANISATION                             | AWARD  |
|--|--|
| Galston Community Council                | £2,451.83 (£1,500 ring-fenced and £951.83 on its merits) |
| Fenwick Community Council                | £1,500.00  |
| Darvel and District Community Council    | £1,500.00  |
| Newmilns and Greenholm Community Council | £1,500.00  |
| Stewarton Yuletide Festival Committee    | £1,500.00  |

This is a total of £6,951.98 which was 19.7% of the total budget for 2008/09.

### 5. TOTAL FUNDING

The table below gives the total spend on hanging baskets, Gala days and Christmas lights for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

|                  | 2007/08               | 2008/09               |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hanging Baskets  | £4,167.12<br>(8.8%)   | £4,058.20<br>(11.5%)  |
| Gala Days        | £6,223.75<br>(13%)    | £5,347.38<br>(15%)    |
| Christmas Lights | £6,504.92<br>13.7%    | £6,957.98<br>19.7%    |
| Total            | £16,895.79<br>(35.5%) | £16,357.56<br>(46.2%) |

## **6. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **6.1 Hanging Baskets**

The following issues should be considered in relation to prioritising funding for hanging baskets:-

- (i) should grant funding be awarded for a maximum number of baskets only;
- (ii) should grant funding be awarded for the filling of baskets only and not for maintenance or the replacement of baskets;
- (iii) should consideration be given to awarding funding on a banding basis based on population ie the larger communities receiving more funding; and
- (iii) should a closing date be set for applications for hanging baskets, i.e. first meeting of the new financial year to avoid applications having to be dealt with under delegated authority.

### **6.2 Gala Days**

When considering whether to prioritise funding for gala days, the Committee should decide whether a closing date be set for applications, i.e. first meeting of the new financial year to avoid applications having to be dealt with under delegated authority.

### **6.3 Christmas Lights**

As Members will be aware over the past two financial years options were considered by the Grants Committee in 2008/09 and the Community Planning Forum in 2007/08 in respect of funding for Christmas lights and agreed as follows:-

- (i) that an award of £1,500 be ring-fenced for those communities within the Northern Local Community Planning Forum area/Local Grants area that had build up a stock of Christmas lights i.e. Stewarton, Fenwick, Darvel, Newmilns and Galston and that this ring-fenced money could only be used for repairs and maintenance to the lights, installation and removal of the light and electricity costs incurred;
- (ii) that the ring-fenced money not be used for the purchase of new lights;
- (iii) that if a group applied for award of excess of £1,500 then the Committee would consider each application for the additional monies on its merits, based on the submitted assessment report in the normal way;
- (iv) that applications from other communities in the area for the purchase of new lights be dealt with on their merits;

- (v) that any unused balance at the end of the financial year be returned to the Committee's general budget for disbursement in the following financial year for any project, if the Committee's budget had already been totally committed; and
- (vi) that this arrangement be for one financial year only and that the Head of Democratic Services submit a report to the first meeting of the Grants Committee in each financial year.

The issues for consideration in relation to prioritising funding for Christmas lights are as detailed above with, perhaps, also consideration being given to setting a closing date for applications.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1** There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

## **8. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS – Nil.**

## **9. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

**9.1** The risk implications which could result if the Committee decides not to prioritise funding is that there could be a detrimental impact on the availability of funding throughout the year.

## **10. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

**10.1** The awarding of grant funding for hanging baskets, Gala Days and Christmas lights focuses on the Community Planning Themes, aspirations and aims in terms of improving the environment and improving opportunities.

## **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**11.1** The Committee is asked:-

- (i) to determine whether they would wish to prioritise the grants budget for 2009/10 taking cognisance of the issues detailed above; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Elizabeth Morton  
Depute Chief Executive/  
Executive Director of Corporate Support

18 February 2009  
CB/KS

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL**

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.**