

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE - 24 FEBRUARY 2010

PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/11

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to determine if the Grants Committee would wish to set priorities for 2010/11 in respect of Hanging Baskets, Gala Days and Christmas Lights.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In February 2009, a report was submitted to the Northern Local Grants Committee which provided information on the previous funding of Hanging Baskets, Gala Days and Christmas Lights by the Grants Committee over 2007/08 and 2008/09.

- 2.2 Having considered the issues detailed in the report, the Committee agreed as follows:-

- to ringfence 50% of the budget for financial year 2009/10 for Hanging Baskets, Gala Days and Christmas Lights as follows:-

Hanging Baskets - 13% - £4,736;

Gala Days - 16% - £5,829; and

Christmas Lights - 21% - £7,651.

- that a closing date be set for receipt of applications to allow them to be considered at meetings in May for Hanging Baskets and Gala Days and November for Christmas Lights.

- that the Head of Democratic Services make appropriate arrangements to notify previous recipients of such grants of the new arrangements.

3. FUNDING 2009/10

- 3.1 As a result of the above decision, applications for Hanging Baskets and Gala Days were considered in May 2009 and Christmas Lights in December 2009. The table below gives details of awards made.

3.2 Hanging Baskets

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Galston Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 filled hanging baskets including VAT - £704; • maintenance costs including VAT - £630; and • hire of cherry picker to erect and take down baskets including VAT - £282. <p>Total Cost of Project - £1,616</p>	£1,416	£1,416
Fenwick Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 filled baskets including delivery and including VAT - £455.40; and • battery and charger - £121.90. <p>Total Cost of Project - £577.30</p>	£577.30	£577.30
Darvel Improvement Group (Environment Section)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 filled baskets including VAT - £210; • 360 bedding plants - £429.50; • compost - £166.50; and • delivery costs - £40. <p>Total Cost of Project - £846</p>	£846	£846
Newmilns & Greenholm Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of materials and plants for baskets and tubs - £995.90; and • maintenance of baskets - £630. <p>Total Cost of Project - £1,625.90</p>	£995.90	£995.90
Stewarton Yuletide Festival Committee (this application was received after the closing date and considered at the Grants meeting held in August 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 baskets - £720; • 40 sets of basket chains - £80; • maintenance - £1,200. <p>Total Cost of Project - £2,000</p>	£1,200	£1,000

3.2.1 The Committee had ringfenced £4,736 to spend on Hanging Baskets with actual spend being £4,835.20.

3.3 Gala Days

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Newmilns Committee Gala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band hire - £1,100; • horse/cart, queen's dress etc - £470; • programme - £1,800; and • marquee, tables, chairs, prize money, first aid, medals, PA system, skip hire, goodie bags, photographer, children's entertainer, ski club events, hire of football pitch and miscellaneous - £3,360. <p>Total Cost of Project - £6,930.</p>	£4,030	£2,000
Fenwick Community Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire of tables and chairs - £176.25; • hall hire - £165; • lorry and staging - £100; • ceilidh band - £360; • enactment group - £200; and • ducks for duck race - £75.32 plus VAT. <p>Total Cost of Project - £1,076.57</p>	£1,076.57	£1,000
Dunlop Committee Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of two marquees - £700; • purchase of bunting - £300; • hire of staging, chairs and tables - £450; • purchase of banner and roadside signs - £200; • hire of PA system events insurance - £100; • events insurance - £200; • prizes for races, fancy dress parade etc - £400; • entertainment for event/stock for side shows - £600; • hire of village hall and field - £200; and • hog roast - £550. <p>Total Cost of Project - £3,700</p>	£3,000	£1,500

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Galston Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Cross - £50; • toilet hire - £150; • stage hire - PA system and children's entertainer - £490; • kid's prizes and sports equipment - £300; • hire mini marquee (5 x £40) - £200; and • insurance - £200. <p>Total Cost of Project - £1,390</p>	£1,190	£1,000

3.3.1 The Committee had ringfenced £5,829 to spend on Gala Days with actual spend being £5,500. The balance remaining was transferred into the general pot for disbursement.

3.4 Christmas Lights

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Stewarton Yuletide Festival Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lights (installation and dismantling) - £1,591.37 	14 units	£1,591.37	£1,591.37
Galston Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection and recovery of lights - £1,532.16; • electricity - £286.63; • testing - £100; and • VAT - £287.82. <p>Total Cost of Project - £2,206.61</p>	18 units	£1,706.61	£1,583.35
Fenwick Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage and transport to and from Blachere's - £546.25; • erection and running costs - £1,256.14 <p>Total Cost of Project - £1,802.39</p>	11 units	£1,802.39	£1,802.39

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Darvel & District Community Council	• Erection, dismantling and energy costs - £1,435.33.	12 units	£1,435.33	£1,404.79
Newmilns & Greenholm Community Council	• Erection, dismantling and energy costs - £1,435.33	12 units	£1,435.33	£1,269.10

3.4.1 The Committee had ringfenced £7,651 to spend on Christmas Lights with actual spend being £7,651.

4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Hanging Baskets

4.1.1 The following issues should once again 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 i.e. the larger communities receiving more funding; and
- (iv) 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.

4.2 Gala Days

4.2.1 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.

4.3 Christmas Lights

4.3.1 As Members will be aware 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 ringfenced for those communities within the Northern Local Community Planning Forum area/Local Grants area that had built up a stock of Christmas Lights i.e. Stewarton, Fenwick, Darvel, Newmilns and Galston and that this ringfenced money only be used for repairs and maintenance to the lights, installation and removal of the lights and electricity costs incurred;
- (ii) that the ringfenced money not be used for the purchase of new lights;
- (iii) that if a group applied for an award in 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.

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

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

7.1 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.

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 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.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Committee is asked:-

- (i) to determine whether they would wish to prioritise the grants budget for 2010/11 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

CB/SC
14 January 2010

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Senior Administrative Officer