

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### NORTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE - 2 MARCH 2011

#### PRIORITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2011/12

##### Report by Executive Director of Finance and 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 financial year 2011/12 in respect of Hanging Baskets, Gala Days and Christmas Lights.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the past two financial years the Grants Committee has ringfenced part of its budget for Hanging Baskets, Gala Days and Christmas Lights as undernoted:-

<b>2009/10</b>	<b>Ringfenced</b>	<b>Spent</b>
Hanging Baskets	14% - £4,736.00	£4,835.20
Gala Days	16% - £5,829.00	£5,550.00
Christmas Lights	21% - £7,651.00	£7,651.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>51% - £18,216.00</b>	<b>£18,036.20</b>

<b>2010/11</b>	<b>Ringfenced</b>	<b>Spent</b>
Hanging Baskets	13% - £6,531.25	£5,001.62
Gala Days	20% - £7,694.80	£9,400.00
Christmas Lights	21% - £8,079.54	£5,727.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>54% - £22,305.59</b>	<b>£20,129.30</b>

### 3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

#### 3.1 Hanging Baskets

- 3.1.1 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 grant funding be awarded for planters and tubs or for baskets only; 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.

### **3.2 Gala Days**

**3.2.1** The following issues should once again be considered in relation to prioritising the funding for Gala Days:-

- (i) 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.

### **3.3 Christmas Lights**

**3.3.1** The following issues should once again be considered in relation to prioritising the funding for Christmas Lights:-

- (i) should grant funding be awarded for repairs and maintenance to the lights, installation and removal of the lights and electricity costs incurred only; and
- (ii) should a closing date be set for applications for Christmas Lights i.e. the November Grants Committee meeting to avoid applications having to be dealt with under delegated authority.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil.**

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1** 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.

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

**7.1** 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.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**8.1** The Grants Committee is asked to:-

- (i) determine whether they would wish to prioritise the grants budget for 2011/12 taking cognisance of the issues detailed above; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Alex McPhee  
Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support  
CB/SC  
8 February 2011

**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**