

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

INTERIM SOUTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE - 21 FEBRUARY 2008

DISBURSEMENT OF COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR 2008/2009

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise of the arrangements put in place to enable the Committee to consider and deal with applications for Community Grants received from local organisations in respect of the 2008/2009 financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Council at its meeting on 6 December 2007, agreed, amongst other things, that, with effect from 1 April 2008, four Local Grants Committees be established within East Ayrshire to deal with Community Grant applications; and that, in the meantime, three Interim Local Grants Committees, corresponding to the previous, and also current interim, Local Community Planning Forums areas, continue to operate with no Community Representatives. The Council have also agreed that each Local Grants Committee would determine how they dealt with their grants in each financial year.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1** As Members will be aware, the former Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committees which, together, cover the area of this Interim Committee and also the Southern Local Grants Committee, pursued different approaches to dealing with Community Grant applications. The Doon Valley Local Committee dealt with applications on a "first come, first served" basis whilst the Cumnock Area Local Committee applied a local arrangement which included setting an annual closing date for grant applications to be lodged and, subject to certain exemptions, all grant applications were dealt with on an annual basis at one meeting as soon as possible following the start of the financial year in question.
- 3.2** Following on from the decisions of Council on 6 December 2007, and being mindful of the different approaches previously adopted by the two former Local Committees, and timing considerations, the Head of Democratic Services consulted with Members of the Committee individually on their views as to how the Southern Local Grants Committee should deal with Community Grant applications during the 2008/2009 financial year. The outcome of those consultations has indicated that Members wish to continue with the different approaches adopted by the former Local Committees.

4. PROCESSING OF COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2008/2009

4.1 Former Doon Valley Local Committee Area

4.1.1 Paragraph 3.1 details how the former Doon Valley Local Committee dealt with applications on a “first come, first served” basis. In terms of the feedback from consultation with Members of this Committee, this arrangement will continue and Community Grant applications received from organisations within the area will be submitted to appropriate meetings of the Southern Local Grants Committee during 2008/2009.

4.2 Former Cumnock Area Local Committee Area

4.2.1 Again, in accordance with the feedback received from individual Members, all administrative tasks have been carried out in order to enable the Southern Local Grants Committee to deal with Community Grant applications from organisations within the former Cumnock Area Local Committee area, on the basis of the arrangements previously adopted by that Committee, and as outlined in Paragraph 3.1, above.

4.2.2 Accordingly, provided at Appendix I is a schedule setting out the key actions and dates for the processing of Community Grants for the former Cumnock Area Local Committee area, all with a view to applications being submitted to, and determined by, the Southern Local Grants Committee at its first meeting to be held on Thursday 15 May 2008.

4.3 Financial Allocations 2008/2009

4.3.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 5 March 2008 will determine the distribution of resources to each Local Grants Committee for the Council’s Community Grants Scheme 2008/2009. Within the allocation to be made available for the Southern Local Grants Committee, sums of monies to be made available for each of the former Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committee areas, on the basis of the accepted criteria, will be identified.

4.3.2 It should be noted that any uncommitted balance remaining from the financial allocations for 2007/2008 for Community Grants for each of the former Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committees will be carried forward and made available for expenditure during 2008/2009.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any Community Grants awarded by this Committee or the Southern Local Grants Committee will require to be met from the financial allocations available for the financial years in question.

6. LEGAL/POLICY/COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal/policy implications arising directly from this report.

6.2 The disbursement of Community Grants to a range of locally based organisations complements the main themes of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Failure to timeously disburse Community Grants may compromise the activities/projects proposed by applicants for grant funding.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee homologate the arrangements implemented to enable the Southern Local Grants Committee to deal with Community Grant applications for 2008/2009 for both the former Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committee areas.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

18 January 2008
SN/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Grant Application Forms submitted by local organisations within the former Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committee areas.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer on Tel No (01563) 576151. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APPENDIX I

SCHEDULE FOR PROCESSING COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR SOUTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE (WARDS 7 & 8)

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>KEY DATE</u>
Issue of Letters and Posters to Local Organisations	W/b 7 January 2008 and 14 January 2008
Closing date for submission of applications.	Friday 15 February 2008
Initial assessment reports by Service Departments on all grant applications to be complete.	Friday 11 April 2008
Assessment Reports by Service Departments to be finalised.	Friday 25 April 2008
Lodgement date for Southern Local Grants Committee	Thursday 1 May 2008
Issue Pre-Agenda for Southern Local Grants Committee	Friday 2 May 2008
Pre-Agenda Meeting for Southern Local Grants Committee	Tuesday 6 May 2008
Issue Agenda for Southern Local Grants Committee	Thursday 8 May 2008
Southern Local Grants Committee	Thursday 15 May 2008

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