

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOUTHERN LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUM - 6 SEPTEMBER 2007**

#### **APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY GRANT: MUIRKIRK LEARNERS GROUP (CG 3648)**

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

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to enable the Forum to determine how to proceed in respect of the application for Community Grant submitted by Muirkirk Learners Group (CG 3648).

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Forum at its last meeting held on 20 June 2007, in considering applications for Community Grant submitted by organisations within the former Cumnock Area Local Committee area, agreed that, in principle, a grant of £600.00 be made, subject to the Group providing information to confirm the reasons for using premises other than Muirkirk IFE Wing for their activities; and that value for money is being achieved with respect to letting costs, the application to be remitted to the Head of Democratic Services to process, following consultation with Members of the Forum.

### **3. PROGRESS**

- 3.1** Further to the decision of the Forum at its last meeting, Officers from the Community Learning and Development Section have contacted the Group in order to obtain information to clarify the matters raised.

- 3.2** The following points of information have been obtained, namely:-

- Muirkirk Learning Centre was initially managed by Ayrshire Electronic Community (AEC) and was based in Muirkirk IFE Wing. However, in around 2001/2002, the project was relocated to the Muirkirk Enterprise Group premises in Main Street in order to improve access during the day for students. It should be noted that, during the day, Muirkirk IFE Wing is used by Muirkirk Primary School for activities in connection with the school curriculum and the building reverts back to a Community Centre type facility from 6.00 p.m. each day. Therefore, the reason for the Group using the Muirkirk Enterprise Group building in Main Street is to ensure access to their services during the day;
- the Group have quoted a cost of £1,560.00 for their use of the Muirkirk Enterprise Group premises during the 2007/2008 year. The Community Worker has undertaken an analysis of the likely costs of the Group using Muirkirk IFE Wing for their activities and has

calculated the annual costs for the current year to be £1,560.00, exactly the same as the cost of the Muirkirk Enterprise Group premises.

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES**

- 4.1** Having regard to the information now obtained from the Group, the Forum can be assured that the Group are achieving value for money in relation to letting charges, when comparing the cost of the premises which they use at the present time to the potential cost of using Muirkirk IFE Wing. It should also be noted that Muirkirk IFE Wing is not available for use by the Group during the day time, which the Group consider to be a key issue.
- 4.2** While it would be in order for the grant of £600.00 approved, in principle, by the Forum at its last meeting, to be paid to Muirkirk Learners Group, it is suggested, in light of the further information regarding the circumstances relating to the application, that the Forum might wish to reconsider the previous grant award. This is on the basis that while the Forum quite legitimately raised the issues relating to the achievement of value for money in respect of this application, these have been shown to be unfounded. Further, it is suggested that the level of “in principle” grant award of £600.00 agreed by the Forum reflected the concerns raised by the Forum. This application is included within the “social inclusion” grants category, and at the meeting on 20 June 2007 all other applications within that category received a grant award from the Forum equal to the amount recommended by Officers.
- 4.3** To assist the Forum in any reconsideration of this application, the grant assessment report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services is provided at Appendix I which includes a recommendation for a grant award of £1,200.00.
- 4.4** Should the Forum wish to reconsider the decision in respect of this application, it will first of all be necessary to agree accordingly in terms of Standing Order 40.
- 4.5** An uncommitted balance of £1,759.82 currently remains from the financial allocation available for Community Grants within the former Cumnock Area.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1** Concerns previously expressed by the Forum regarding value for money being achieved on this application, have been shown to be unfounded and the Forum may therefore wish to reconsider their previous decision regarding the grant award in respect of this application.

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

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** Any additional grant award made in respect of this application beyond that which was agreed on 20 June 2007, would require to be met from the uncommitted balance of £1,759.82 remaining from the financial allocation for Community Grants for the former Cumnock Area for 2007/2008.

## **8. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES**

- 8.1** In general terms, support given by way of Community Grants to local voluntary organisations supports the main themes of the Community Plan. This application complements a number of the Community Plans main themes, i.e. promoting community learning, improving opportunities and eliminating poverty.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1** It is recommended that the Forum:-
- (i) note the further information provided in respect of this application, as detailed in Paragraph 3.2;
  - (ii) agree, in terms of Standing Order 40, to reconsider the previous decision regarding the grant award in this case; and
  - (iii) give further consideration to the grant award to be made in respect of this application.

Elizabeth Morton  
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

20 August 2007

SN/SR

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Community Grant Application submitted by Muirkirk Learners Group (CG 3648).
2. Assessment report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services.
3. Supplementary information report by Community Learning and Development Service.

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.**

# grant assessment form

<b>1</b>	<b>Aims and objectives of the organisation</b>	
		To provide Educational and Social opportunities for all residents of Muirkirk and surrounding areas in terms of access, to ICT equipment through the provision of drop-ins and recognised Training and range of other community based activities.
<b>2</b>	<b>Purpose of the grant (including breakdown of costs)</b>	
		Annual lease of premises (Muirkirk Community Wing & Muirkirk Learning Centre) £1560.00.
<b>3a</b>	<b>How many people are on the organisation's Management Committee?</b>	15
<b>3b</b>	<b>What is the organisation's total membership?</b>	120
<b>3c</b>	<b>How many members usually attend the organisation's meetings or events?</b>	500 per annum
<b>3d</b>	<b>How many members of the organisation would benefit from the grant?</b>	120
<b>3e</b>	<b>How many members of the community would benefit from the grant?</b>	All
<b>4</b>	<b>How will the grant :- (a) develop the organisation; or</b>	
		To continue to provide this service to the community of Muirkirk and surrounding area.
	<b>(b) benefit the local community.</b>	
		A local computing suite for all residents to access.

5	<b>Total cost of project</b>		<b>£1560</b>
	<b>Amount of grant requested</b>		<b>£1560</b>
	<b>Bank Balance(s)</b>	<b>Date</b> 7 February 2007	<b>£ 857.66</b>
	Where the group has more than one bank account all balances should be recorded		
	<b>Cash in hand</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Value of any other financial assets</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Name of other funding sources</b>			
<b>Amount and date of grant</b>			
		<b>Date</b>	

6 **If latest balance (including other financial assets) exceeds the cost of the project or is substantial, are these funds ring-fenced for the normal activities of the group or can they contribute to the cost of the project?**

Monies for ring-fenced for advertising, tutors fees and outings, stationery from previous grants.

7 **Recommendation**

<b>Support</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Refuse</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Defer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Amount</b>	£1560 <b>FINAL RECOMMENDATION - £1,200.00</b>
<b>Recommended</b>	
<b>Reason for recommendation</b>	
This group provide a valuable service to the residents of Muirkirk. ICT is an essential element in today's society.	
Management Risk Ranking L / <del>M</del> / <del>H</del>	Child Protection Risk Ranking L / <del>M</del> / <del>H</del>
<small>Risk Ranking based on Grant Application and Financial Information used to determine appropriate levels of monitoring and evaluation.</small>	<small>Applications with a <b>HIGH</b> ranking are not recommended for support</small>

8 **If there are any revenue implications how will they be met in future years?**

N/A

9 **Does the project represent value for money?** Yes  No

10 **Cross boundary grant (if applicable) and division per committee (the calculation should identify the corresponding number of individuals within the respective Local Committee areas who will directly benefit from the grant award)**

	<b>Nos</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
Cumnock Area	120	£1560	100
Doon Valley			
Central Local Community Planning Forum			
Northern Local Community Planning Forum			
Other areas outwith EA			
Method of Division			