

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007

### DEPARTMENTAL GRANT FUNDING TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

#### Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress associated with external organisations which receive grant aid from Neighbourhood Services and to seek approval for future funding and revised reporting and monitoring arrangements.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Neighbourhood Services has funded four external organisations to deliver a range of community based leisure services:-

The Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust (KLCT) operating the Galleon Leisure Centre;

The Cumnock and District Leisure Group (CDLG) operating Visions Leisure Centre;

Dunlop and District Community Company (DDCC) operating Dunlop Village Hall; and

Dunlop and Lugton Park Association (DLPA) operating Dunlop Park.

- 2.2 In terms of the local audit report on Following the Public Pound, it is necessary to report on an annual basis on grant aid, review and develop the monitoring and reporting arrangements and link this to the award of future funding.

#### 3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 The KLCT continues to offer exceptional value for money in its operation of the Galleon Leisure Centre. In addition the Galleon Centre provides a range of high quality leisure services which are well utilised by local residents. A three year funding package was previously agreed by the Committee on 8 November 2006.

- 3.2 The CDLG continues to offer good value for money in its operation of Visions Leisure Centre. Visions Leisure Centre has established itself as an important local focal point for leisure. A three year funding package was previously agreed by the Committee on 8 November 2006.

- 3.3 The DDCC assumed management responsibility for Dunlop Village Hall in 2003. A three year funding package was agreed by Committee on 12 November 2003 and a further three year funding package is being sought for financial years 2007/08 – 2009/10. This will allow the group to continue to deliver locally based leisure and cultural services providing a contribution towards running costs.

The initial and most extensive phase of the Hall refurbishment project was completed in January 2007 and a major transformation has been achieved at the facility. The DDCC has the expertise and experience to manage the new facilities on behalf of the local community and also continue to secure further improvements to the building.

- 3.4 The DLPA assumed management responsibility for Dunlop Park in 2003. A range of new facilities have been developed including a sport court and play area. A three year funding package was agreed by Committee on 5 February 2004 and a three year funding package is being sought for financial years 2007/8 – 2009/10. This will allow the group to continue to deliver locally based leisure services providing a contribution towards running costs. The DLPA has delivered both the improvements to the park and an effective management regime which has ensured that the new facilities are well managed and maintained.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The existing and proposed funding arrangements in terms of Neighbourhood Services grant aid for the four organisations are as follows;

<b>Year</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Stage</b>
2007/08	CDLG – Visions	£160,000	Approved 8/11/06
2008/09	CDLG – Visions	£165,000	Approved 8/11/06
2009/10	CDLG – Visions	£170,000	Approved 8/11/06
2007/08	KLCT – Galleon Centre	£174,000	Approved 8/11/06
2008/09	KLCT – Galleon Centre	£189,000	Approved 8/11/06
2009/10	KLCT – Galleon Centre	£204,000	Approved 8/11/06
2007/08	DDCC – Dunlop Hall	£10,150	Seeking approval
2008/09	DDCC – Dunlop Hall	£10,150	Seeking approval
2009/10	DDCC – Dunlop Hall	£10,150	Seeking approval
2007/08	DLPA – Dunlop Park	£1,000	Seeking approval
2008/09	DLPA – Dunlop Park	£1,000	Seeking approval
2009/10	DLPA – Dunlop Park	£1,000	Seeking approval

- 4.2 Funding is available within existing budgets to provide the detailed level of contribution.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Financial support for the four organisations is underpinned by Service Level Agreements and the council's standard Conditions of Grant.

#### **6. POLICY / COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The four organisations deliver leisure services within the framework of the emerging Leisure and Cultural Strategy and the Community Plan and in line with the principles of Best Value.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The four organisations provide a beneficial service to East Ayrshire in their operation of these facilities and the funding requirements for the three year period has been assessed as reasonable and achievable.
- 7.2 A three year funding agreement will allow Dunlop & District Community Company and Dunlop & Lugton Park Association to plan for the future and respond to service needs with greater effectiveness.
- 7.3 There are existing Service Level Agreements in place with the four organisations. The agreements are currently being reviewed and revised in consultation with the organisations.
- 7.4 Existing monitoring arrangements are being reviewed and revised to ensure compliance with the Councils financial regulations and to ensure that the levels of service continue to achieve Best Value for the residents of East Ayrshire. It is proposed that future annual update reports are submitted to an autumn Committee in order that full financial and performance information for the previous year is available.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- i) approve the award of a three year funding package of £10,150 per year to the Dunlop and District Community Company
  - ii) approve the award of a three year funding package of £1000 per year to the Dunlop and Lugton Park Association
  - iii) note the position relating to funding for the Kilmarnock Leisure Centre Trust and the Cumnock and District Leisure Group.
  - iv) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to report back on progress in autumn of each year
  - v) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/AM  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2007

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Grant Application Forms

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper should telephone Katie Kelly, Leisure Development Manager, on 01563 576722

Implementation Officer – [john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)