

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15th SEPTEMBER 2004

MAJOR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS – NEW CUMNOCK ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION VOLUNTEERS

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the level of grant provided to the New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers (N.E.R.V.) for 2004/2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that in response to changing guidance regarding grants to external organisations of over £5,000, Service Level Agreements were introduced and approved in February 2003. These Service Level Agreements are continuing to be monitored and reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and effective.
- 2.2 The grant to N.E.R.V. is the subject of the standard Grants to Voluntary Organisation application and assessment procedures. The organisation applies for a grant on an annual basis and the applications is assessed with reference to the organisations needs for the coming year and the available budget.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The N.E.R.V. organisation has taken responsibility for the New Cumnock Swimming Pool and has carried out significant improvements to the facility utilising funding from external organisations. The Service Level Agreement reflects the requirement to offer a safe, attractive facility for the whole community during the summer opening season.
- 3.2 The application from N.E.R.V. requests financial support for the operation of the pool, this has been assessed and an amount of £20,000 for 2004/2005 put forward for approval. This amount has been adjusted to reflect the total budget available. . Given the range of alternative sources and availability of external funding for projects of this type it is proposed that assistance be given to the Group to secure funds from other sources for future years and for Council funding to be discontinued after this year. This will allow the Group to refocus their activities and develop ongoing strategies. Full support will be given to the Group by the Council's External Funding Officer to maximise funding opportunities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The grant recommended for approval in this report can be met from the Grants to Voluntary Organisation budget.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Service Level Agreement for the organisation referred to in this report is in line with Council guidance on grants to external bodies and is required to be reviewed on an annual basis.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Service Level Agreement will ensure that the Council's expectations and the responsibilities of the external organisation are being met in the delivery of services supported by Council funding.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) approve a grant of £20,000 from the Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget to the New Cumnock Environmental Regeneration Volunteers for 2004/2005; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH

4TH August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. N.E.R.V. - Service Level Agreement
2. N.E.R.V. – Grant Assessment Report

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576264 and ask for John Griffiths.

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