

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING 2006-07/2007-08

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the allocation of Quality of Life funding for 2006/07 and 2007/08 and to seek approval for distribution of this funding to various projects within the department.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 8th February 2005, it was agreed to allocate the department £534,000 Quality of Life funding for 2005/06 from the Council's total allocation of £1,634,000. Provisional allocations for 2006/07 and 2007/08 of £382,000 and £381,000 respectively were also agreed reflecting the total provisional allocations £1,172,000 and £1,168,000.
- 2.2 The distribution of the funding for 2005/06 was approved at the meeting of the Special Community Services Committee on 25th February 2005 and it was agreed that a further report on the distribution of funding for 2006/07 would be submitted in due course.
- 2.3 In early August 2005 the Scottish Executive confirmed the provisional allocations and set out the policy themes and criteria which must be met. These are broadly similar to previous years but now focus on improving the local environment and improving community well being.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 It is therefore now a matter for this Committee to consider the distribution of the allocation of £382,000 for 2006-07 and £381,000 for 2007-08 in accordance with the specified criteria. In this connection it is respectfully suggested that the funding be distributed as follows:-

Library Materials	£50,000
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It is suggested that £50,000 be allocated to the Library Service for each year to purchase materials specifically for young people and increase user numbers.

Cumnock Swimming Pool**£90,000**

It is anticipated that Cumnock Swimming Pool will require ongoing revenue support of approximately £90,000. This will, of course, be subject to a full review and assessment of the grant application and the criteria associated with Finance Policy Bulletin APB27.

Environmental Issues**£110,000**

This funding provides a number of opportunities to address environmental issues including the continued provision of an Environmental Hit Squad in the Cumnock area (£70,000); servicing of dog bins (£20,000); and graffiti removal. This work in many respects complements work done in other areas from the Community Regeneration Funding.

Leisure Development**£60,000**

This funding would be used to support the very positive work which is being carried out by Sport Development Officers to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles to all age groups but in particular young people.

Community Safety**£50,000**

In the past, Quality of Life funding has assisted significantly in progressing community safety initiatives such as Danger Detectives and the Community Firework Display in Kilmarnock. It is therefore proposed that the same level of funding be continued for each of the two years.

Improving Parks and Open Spaces**£22,000**

This funding will be used to carry out minor environmental improvements in parks and open spaces which it is recognised contribute to community well-being. It is proposed to allocate £22,000 in 2006/07 and £21,000 in 2007/08 for this purpose.

- 3.2 The proposed distribution is in line with the Scottish Executive criteria, reflects local priorities and will greatly assist in the implementation of the Community Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report makes proposals for the distribution of the allocation of Quality of Life funding for 2006-07 of £382,000 and £381,000 for 2007-08.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/ IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Expenditure will be in accordance with relevant legislation and Council procedures.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As previously stated, this funding as well as making a significant contribution to communities, will greatly assist in progressing the actions agreed by the Council and Community Planning Partners as part of the Community Planning process.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This additional funding is welcomed and the proposed distribution, if agreed, will provide ongoing support to a number of services across the department. The proposals outlined above meet the Scottish Executive criteria.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) Consider and, if acceptable, approve proposals contained in this report for the distribution of the Quality of Life allocation for 2006/07 and 2007/08; and
 - (ii) Otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JS

26th August 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report by Executive Head of Finance to Policy and Resources Committee – 8th February 2005.
2. Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to Special Community Services Committee – 14th February.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576023 and ask to speak to William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

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