

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL MEETING - 28 APRIL 2005**

#### **KILMARNOCK COMMON GOOD FUND - APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM SPORTS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS**

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

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

- 1.1 To request the Council to consider making a grant from the Kilmarnock Common Good Fund to Sports for Special Needs based at the Galleon Leisure Centre, Kilmarnock.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Sports for Special Needs organisation submitted an application for funding to the Council last year. Grant applications from this organisation were previously determined by the Community Services Committee under their Grants to Voluntary Organisations Scheme. However, as Members will be aware, the Community Services Committee at its meeting held on 26 May 2004, agreed to review the funding arrangements for Grants to Voluntary Organisations and agreed not to fund voluntary organisations directly.
- 2.2 As membership of the Group involves members from throughout East Ayrshire area, the Group are not eligible for Local Committee Community Grant Funding.
- 2.3 Officers have been investigating alternative external funding sources for the Group in order that they can continue to operate. However, in the short term, the Group are in need of assistance in order to continue to operate until future funding provision has been secured.
- 2.4 As Members are aware, the normal procedure is for requests for funding from the Common Good Fund to be dealt with by the Policy and Resources Committee with a recommendation by that Committee to be submitted to Council. Bearing in mind the need to determine this matter at an early date in order to assist the Group with its continued operation, the Council is requested to give consideration to this grant application.

### **3. THE GROUP**

- 3.1 The Group itself enables children, teenagers and adults with special needs to develop social skills, build their self-confidence and help them reach their full potential. It also provides a support group for their families. It enables excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the talents of children and young adults with special needs.

**3.2** As stated previously, members from the Group come from all over East Ayrshire, however, the majority are based within the Kilmarnock area.

**3.3** The Group use the Galleon Centre, Kilmarnock, twice a week for hydrotherapy and swimming tuition the latter of which in particular helps members participate in National/Local Galas and the Special Olympics.

#### **4. DETAILS OF APPLICATION**

**4.1** One of the most expensive, but necessary costs is in relation to the swimming pool charges and this application relates to the hire charges for the Galleon Centre Swimming Pool. The estimate of Galleon charges for 12 months is £3,124.60. The organisation is contributing £1,124.60 and has requested a grant of £2,000 from the Council.

**4.2** An assessment on this application by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services is being carried out.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The estimated revenue balance of the Kilmarnock Common Good Fund at 31 March 2005 is £39,022.07.

**5.2** The maximum grant award of £2,000 can be met from the Fund if the Council so wish.

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

**6.1** Funds from the Common Good Fund can be applied for any purpose that is considered to be in the interest of the community so long as it is considered to be a proper and honest act of administration and is not contrary to legislative provisions.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

**7.1** With the discontinuation of funding from the Community Services Committee, the Group is now in financial difficulties, if grant monies cannot be secured. In order that the Group may continue to operate until such times as other sources of external funding can be identified, it is recommended that the Council considers making a "one off" grant award from the Common Good Fund.

**7.2** Although there may not be an opportunity for funding through Awards for All, who grant mainly project based applications, there are other external funding opportunities (e.g. Sports Council) and Officers will continue to work with the Group to explore all other external funding sources.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**8.1** It is recommended that the Council:-

- (i) considers making a grant award, in principle, from the Kilmarnock Common Good Fund to Sports for Special Needs in respect of the Galleon Centre hire charges for 12 months and if so agreed;
- (ii) remits to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to release payment, subject to a satisfactory assessment of the grant application being received from the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; and
- (iii) otherwise, notes the terms of the report.

Elizabeth Morton  
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

14 April 2005  
JA/SR

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Application for funding from Sports for Special Needs.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager.**