

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER 2006

APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY GRANT: KEIR HARDIE HILL TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CG 3226)

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To enable the Committee to determine how to proceed in respect of an application for Community Grant funding for 2006/2007, by Keir Hardie Hill Tenants and Residents Association, Cumnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The grant application from this organisation was received on 24 January 2006 and was in respect of an outing and meal for older people in the local community and a summer outing and Christmas party and gifts for children, at a total cost of £500.00. The Administration Manager wrote to the Treasurer to the Association on 26 January 2006 requesting completion of certain sections of the application form, and submission of necessary outstanding documentation, all with a view to enabling the application to be assessed and a report and recommendation being submitted to the Special Meeting of the Local Committee on 26 April 2006.
- 2.2** No further information was received from the Association by the date of the Special Meeting of the Local Committee and the Committee agreed to continue consideration of the application to the next meeting in order to afford the Association a further opportunity to address the outstanding issues.
- 2.3** It was subsequently reported to the meeting of the Local Committee held on 25 May 2006 that, again, no further information had been received from the Association, but that the Treasurer to the Association had confirmed that the grant funding was still very much required in order to enable the proposed activities to go ahead. The Committee again agreed to continue consideration of the application to the next meeting on 7 September 2006 to enable the Association to deal with the outstanding matters.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1** As of the date of this report, no further information or communication has been received from the Association.
- 3.2** The Local Elected Member has also been in contact with the Association and has been undertaking a liaison role between the Association and the Administration Section with a view to assisting in submission of the

outstanding information and documentation by the Group. However, despite this, nothing has so far been forthcoming.

- 3.3** It is understood that the Association has been undergoing a period of organisational change in recent months and it is likely that this may have contributed to the Association's failure to respond to the Council's request for the outstanding information and documentation. The Policy Unit within the Housing Section have been working with the Association in recent weeks and it is anticipated that the organisation of the Association will be consolidated at their AGM towards the end of August.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1** As can be seen from Sections 2 and 3 of this report, numerous requests have been made by the Administration Section, with the assistance of the Local Member, to obtain the necessary information and documentation from the Association to enable this application to be processed in the usual way. A period in excess of seven months has now elapsed since the Association was originally requested to forward the outstanding information and documentation to the Administration Section, and it is suggested that the Association have had more than ample opportunity to attend to the issues.

- 4.2** However, it is recognised that the Association have been experiencing some organisational change and also that, subject to assessment, the purpose of the application would seem to be worthwhile and of merit. Accordingly, it is suggested that, in the circumstances, the Association be given a further period of time, until 6 October 2006, in which to submit the required information and documentation with a view to enabling the grant application to be assessed and a recommendation submitted to the Local Committee at its next meeting to be held on 9 November 2006. In the event that the Association fail to submit the required information and documentation by the due date, it is suggested that the application should be terminated. It should be noted that consideration of any grant award to the Association at the November meeting would be dependent upon funds being available for this purpose from the current year's Community Grants budget.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** A grant award in respect of this application would require to be met from any remaining balance from the current year's allocation for Community Grants, which currently stands at £1,496.25.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** The disbursement of Community Grants to locally based organisations accords with the main themes of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

- 6.2** There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended:-

- (i) that the Association be afforded a further period of time, until 6 October 2006, in which to submit the required information and documentation in order to enable this application to be assessed and a recommendation submitted to the next meeting of the Local Committee, failing which the application be terminated; and
- (ii) otherwise, that the Local Committee note the terms of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

16 August 2006

SN/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Grant Application File - Keir Hardie Hill Tenants and Residents Association (CG 3226).

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, Administration Manager on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.