

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2005

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the outcome of a bid to secure enhanced Private Sector Housing Grant funding in the current financial year following an additional offer from Communities Scotland and to seek approval to disburse funding on the basis of their offer.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Communities Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, allocated the Council £860K Private Sector Housing Grant funding for 2004/05 to support its strategic intentions for investment to improve the condition of its private housing sector.
- 2.2 On 23 August 2004, Communities Scotland wrote to the Council intimating flexibility within the PSHG budget that would allow bids for additional funding to be submitted and accordingly a bid for additional funding was submitted.

3. DETAILED ADDITIONAL BID PROPOSALS

- 3.1 A bid was submitted to request additional funding of £1.541M for 2004/05 under detailed proposals as follows:
- (i) To provide additional funding for mandatory grants for disabled adaptation applications expected in year 2004/05 in the amount of £360K.
 - (ii) To make available additional grant assistance to adjoining owner-occupiers to encourage them to take part in communal works undertaken by the Council as part of its Housing Investment Programme, in the amount of £129K in 2004/05.
 - (iii) To secure funding to undertake selective demolitions and associated costs to include acquisition costs, home loss and disturbance payments in respect of privately owned properties to assist the Area Initiatives Regeneration projects approved by members in the amount £1.052M.

4. OUTCOME

- 4.1 Communities Scotland accepted the proposals and funding estimates and agreed to provide all funding requested in their letter of offer dated 24 November 2004.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the offer from Communities Scotland will be sufficient to address the grant requirements under each proposal for 2004/05.

6. LEGAL AUTHORITY/ IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is required to comply with the conditions of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended October 2001, when exercising its authority to make grants available to the private sector.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The Scottish Ministers, in accepting the proposals and agreeing the funding, have enabled the Council to address its statutory requirements and progress its additional proposals as detailed in section 3 of this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee are recommended to:-
- (i) agree to disburse the available funding under the proposal headings detailed in section 3;
 - (ii) remit to the Head of Housing to monitor the phasing of expenditure in agreement with Communities Scotland; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

CMCA/JC2/LA

10 January 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Communities Scotland letter of offer of additional PSHG dated June 2004.
2. Communities Scotland letter of confirmation of revised award dated 24 November 2004.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone (01563) 576658 and ask for Jim Clark.

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