

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25TH NOVEMBER 2004

MATCH FUND – APPLICATION FROM DUNLOP AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPANY

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to the Committee an award from the Match Fund budget in respect of the project to refurbish and modernise the facilities at the Dunlop Village Hall being planned by the Dunlop and District Community Company.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Dunlop and District Community Company is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. On 12th November 2003, the Community Services Committee approved a proposal to transfer management responsibility for the Village Hall to the Dunlop and District Community Company.
- 2.2 The Company has now developed a project that will redesign, renovate and upgrade the hall to enable it to become a focus of village life. The current layout of the hall is inefficient and awkward and kitchen and toilet facilities are outdated, in addition, access for people with disabilities is limited. The project will create a hall of modern standards, fully accessible and flexible to meet the demands of the local community and will support a new and expanded activity programme for all ages. The plans have been based on feedback from extensive public consultation and have wide ranging support in the local community.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The grant requested from the Council will be valuable both in terms of direct support from the Council and also in terms of leverage for other funding sources. Should the Council be able to offer £50,000, over two financial years if necessary, then the Company would be in a strong position with other funders, particularly the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund Local Capital Grants Scheme. The Company are applying for £100,000 from the SRPF and require a commitment of £50,000 from the Council to assist with this application.
- 3.2 The Company envisage raising approximately £500,000 to fund the project and will be applying for funding from other sources such as the Big Lottery Fund and Charitable Trusts to meet this target. The project will be implemented in two phases.

Phase One has a value of £200,000 and relates to improvements in access, kitchen facilities, toilets and the foyer area. Phase Two will improve the main hall. This application relates to Phase One but no further funding from the Council will be required for Phase Two; Phase Two will be valued at approximately £300,000.

3.3 As with projects requiring multiple sources of funding the grants are inter-dependant and the Council's contribution will be critical in persuading other funders to award grants to the project.

3.4 The Department of Neighbourhood Services has carried out an assessment of the Match Fund Application and recommends that an award of £50,000 is made, with the award made over two financial years. It is proposed that the grant is awarded as follows:-

2004/05:	£18,000
2005/06:	£32,000

Agreeing this level of funding would allow the Company to proceed with the project.

3.5 It is also recommended that if the project is not able to proceed by 31st March 2006 for any reason, then this Match Fund award would be withdrawn and a new application would then be required to be submitted to the Match Fund with a revised funding profile.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 The Company will be carrying out refurbishment work which will restore the Village Hall to a prominent place in village life, improving facilities and accessibility, and broadening the range of activities that can be staged at the hall will improve income generation while improving operational efficiency, thus ensuring the sustainability of the hall into the future.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The award detailed in 3.4 above can be met from the Match Fund.

6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Company have utilised the Community Plan in developing the aims of their project and quote the Community Plan vision of 'creating a strong, vibrant community where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are accessible, sustainable and meet people's needs'. The Village Hall project would assist in delivering this vision.

6.2 The project to upgrade Dunlop Village Hall and transfer management responsibility to the Company is in line with the Community Plan in the following areas:-

Improving the Environment: Aim 11 – To invest in Culture and Leisure Facilities.

Promoting Community Learning: Aim 1-1 – Support local organisations to manage their own facilities.

Aim 4-2 – Actively promote access to and use of facilities.

Improving Opportunities: Aim 6 – To promote the availability of good quality homes and services including leisure and cultural facilities to attract investment.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) approve an award of £50,000 to the Dunlop and District Community Company, subject to the conditions set out in sections 3.4 and 3.5 of this report; and
- ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH
8th November 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application Form dated 16th October 2004
2. Email from Dunlop and District Community Company dated 8th November 2004.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576264 and ask for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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