

EAST AYRSHRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 10 APRIL 2002

REVIEW OF GRANTS TO BANDS SCHEME

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request the Committee to consider the future of the Grants to Bands scheme

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Services Committee has administered a Grants to Bands scheme since 1996. A total fund of £4,500 was available in 2001/02. This fund was paid out in grants of £400 to a total of 7 organisations applying to the Council. A balance of £1,700 was therefore retained at the end of the year.

3. CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Grants to Bands scheme has assisted bands in recent years. However, it is an unusual scheme with regard to several key factors:-
- Grants are awarded for basic running costs, not specific projects
 - Grants are awarded at a similar level to all applicants regardless of their financial position or requirements
 - Grant recipients are obliged to perform at Council events if required.
- 3.2 Whilst financial support has undoubtedly been valuable to grant recipients, the scheme itself has weakness in that the Council should target its resources in areas of greatest need and support particular projects, it may be considered inappropriate to offer annual revenue support to a limited number of organisations in the current manner.
- 3.3 Bands can apply for several sources of alternative funding, notably via the Lottery and the Minerals Trust (in former Coalfield areas). Where alternative funds are available the Council should consider if its own funds are being used most effectively.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Withdrawal of the Grants to Bands scheme would allow funds previously allocated to the scheme to be refocused within the overall budget for 2002/2003.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The availability of alternative sources of funding to support bands would allow the Committee to withdraw the Grants to Bands scheme with minimal detrimental effect on the organisations involved.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the withdrawal of the Grants to Bands scheme in 2002/03.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/JS

22nd March 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA