

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2004**

#### **COMMUNITY GRANT: CATRINE, SORN AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

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

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

- 1.1** To invite the Committee to consider and determine how to proceed in respect of Community Grant funding awarded to Catrine, Sorn and District Local History Group, in the light of the time which has now passed since approval of the application.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** This Committee on 10 May 2000, agreed to make a Community Grant award to Catrine, Sorn and District Local History Group, in the sum of £650.00 to assist in meeting the cost of (a) reproduction of the Catrine Chronicle 1906-1908; and (b) expenses relating to research on the history of G Reid & Son, Builders, Catrine. A letter of approval was subsequently issued on 5 June 2000 with one of the conditions of grant being that the grant monies should be expended within a period of twelve months from the date of approval.
- 2.2** Subsequently, on 20 June 2001, this Committee agreed to allow the Group an additional period of time until 30 November 2001, to allow completion of the projects and for the grant monies to be expended.
- 2.3** On 27 March 2003, the Committee agreed to allow the Group a further period of time until 30 June 2003, to have the work involved in re-printing of the Catrine Chronicle carried out and the grant monies expended; and that the Group be advised that should they fail to meet this requirement, a further report would be submitted to this Committee to enable consideration to be given to the possibility of requiring repayment of the grant award, or part thereof.
- 2.4** This matter was again considered by the Local Committee on 11 September 2003, when it was agreed to continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting pending the submission of further information on the project; and that an appropriate representative of the Group be invited to attend the next meeting in order to provide clarification if required. No information was submitted by the Group to enable the matter to be dealt with by this Committee at the next meeting on 6 November 2003 and it was again agreed to continue consideration of the matter to this meeting.

### **3. PRESENT POSITION**

- 3.1** Work relating to the research on the history of G Reid & Son has been completed (to a value of £100.00) and recorded on CD Rom format. This work represents a distinct element of the grant application and has been followed through to completion, and the allocated grant monies expended, in accordance with the grant application.
- 3.2** The Group have also undertaken much of the work necessary to prepare for re-printing of the Catrine Chronicle 1906-1908 (23 issues in total) at a value of £325.00, but the re-printing work (value £500.00 approximately of which £225.00 has been allocated from the grant award) has not yet been undertaken. The Chairperson and Secretary to the Group have indicated that it is the intention of the Group to arrange for the re-printing works to be carried out as soon as possible.
- 3.3** This Committee has previously expressed concern at the significant delay which has occurred with the Catrine Chronicle part of the project, bearing in mind that some three and a half years have now elapsed since approval. A letter received from the Group explaining the reasons for the delay is provided at Appendix I.
- 3.4** Arrangements are also being made for Mr Robert Reardon, Chairperson of the Group, to attend the meeting of the Local Committee to be held on 29 January 2004, in order to provide clarification on this matter, where required. The Chairperson has also indicated that the Group will be meeting during the period between the date of writing of this report and the Local Committee meeting in order to determine their view on the best way forward in respect of this project, and that he will report the outcome to this Committee on 29 January.

### **4. DISCUSSION**

- 4.1** The options available to the Committee at this stage are to seek repayment of either part or all of the grant already awarded to the Group on the basis of the length of time which has elapsed without completion or to allow the Group a further period of time within which to complete the Catrine Chronicle project by having the re-printing works undertaken.
- 4.2** As indicated above, the work relative to the research on the history of G Reid & Son represents a distinct element of the original grant application and has been followed through to completion and it is suggested that it would be reasonable for that part of the grant allocated to this part of the project to be retained by the Group, i.e. a sum of £100.00.
- 4.3** With regard to that part of the grant award relating to the Catrine Chronicle project, the Committee will require to determine on the basis of the information provided in this report and any information provided by the Chairperson to the Group at the meeting, whether the balance of the grant award, being £550.00, or part thereof, should be reclaimed from the Group or

whether it would be reasonable to allow a further period of time within which to complete the reprinting works.

- 4.4** In determining how to proceed, the Committee will recognise that the main priority is completion of the grant eligible works with a resultant positive output in the form of re-printed versions of the Catrine Chronicle, and this may be best served by allowing the Group an additional period of time. Should the Committee take the view that there is unlikely to be a positive conclusion to this matter within a further reasonable period of time, consideration might then be given to reclaiming part or all of the grant award, although it should be recognised that a sum of £325.00 has already been expended by the Group in respect of the Catrine Chronicle project and a requirement upon the Group to repay that part of the grant award may present them with financial difficulties.

## **5. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** There are no new legal or policy implications arising from this report.
- 5.2** There would be financial implications arising from this report should the Committee wish to seek repayment from the Group of any part of the Community Grant awarded.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee consider and determine how to proceed in respect of this grant application in view of the information presented in this report and to be provided by the Chairperson to the Group at the meeting.

Fiona Lees  
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

13 January 2004

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### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Community Grant Application from, and correspondence with, Catrine, Sorn and District Local History Group.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer, on telephone number 01563 576151. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.**