

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 26 JUNE 2003

DISBURSEMENT OF COMMUNITY GRANTS 2003/2004

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable the Committee to consider and deal with applications for community grant received from local organisations in respect of the 2003/2004 financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This Committee on 31 January 2002 agreed a number of matters in relation to the general arrangements for dealing with applications for community grants for future financial years. An extract of the Minute of the Local Committee meeting of 31 January 2002, which details the matters determined by the Committee is attached (Appendix 1), for ease of reference.
- 2.2 Subsequently, on 13 June 2002, the Local Committee agreed that in future years the closing date for the submission of grant applications be 28 February.
- 2.3 The Emergency Powers Committee on 21 May 2003 agreed, amongst other things, that the community grant allocation for this Local Committee for 2003/2004 is £54,952.
- 2.4 It should also be noted that a total sum of £680.58 has been reimbursed to the Local Committee by three organisations in respect of previously awarded grant monies which were unexpended, and that a sum of £525 has been accrued from 2002/2003 in respect of a grant award approved but not paid. Accordingly, the total sum available for disbursement by the Local Committee during the current financial year is £56,157.58.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1 All the administrative arrangements required arising from the Local Committee's decisions on 31 January 2002 and 13 June 2002 have been implemented. As at 28 February 2003, being the specified closing date, 66 applications for community grant from local organisations had been received. A further 19 applications were received following the closing date, giving an overall total of 85 applications received. Those applications which were received following the closing date are detailed in Appendix 2. Two of the applications submitted have subsequently been withdrawn.
- 3.2 A statement summarising the value of applications received, on the basis of recommendations by the Assessing Departments, classified according to the established categories, is attached at Appendix 3.

- 3.3** Grant assessment reports which provide details of each individual application received and put forward recommendations as to how each application should be dealt with are attached at Appendix 4. Members should note that it is the “Final Recommendation” contained within Section 6 of the Grant Assessment form which is submitted for consideration by the Committee. The “Final Recommendation” takes into account not only the individual merits of the application in question but also (i) the level of funding which could be made available in respect of the application having regard to the overall financial allocation which the Local Committee has available for disbursement for community grants for the current financial year; and (ii) opportunities which exist for organisations to seek funding from other sources.

4. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1** In order to facilitate arrangements for dealing with applications for community grant for 2003/2004, and prior to dealing with individual applications, the Committee are invited to consider and determine the undernoted matters, namely:-

(a) Late Applications

The Committee are asked to determine whether those applications for grant which were received after 28 February 2003, should be accepted or should be returned to the applicants on the basis that the applications were received after the closing date.

It should be noted that the recommendations and other information contained within the Appendices attached to this report have been prepared on the basis of all late applications being accepted by the Committee. Should it be the case that some or all of the late applications are not to be accepted then the monies allocated to these groups would then be available for disbursement in respect of other applications.

(b) Applications Received During the Remainder of the Financial Year 2003/2004

The Committee are asked to consider whether a portion of the financial allocation available for community grants for the current financial year should be set aside to enable applications for grant which might be received during the year from organisations formed during the year and in respect of emergency and cross-boundary applications, to be dealt with.

(c) Young People’s Uniformed Organisations

Having regard to their decision on 31 January 2002 (Appendix 1), the Committee are asked to determine the formula upon which grants will be made to young people’s uniformed organisations in respect of general operating costs. The Members are reminded that since the 1996/97 financial year, the formula has been as follows, namely:- less

than 20 members - £60; 20-40 members - £70; and more than 40 members - £80.

It is suggested that the Committee might wish to consider an increase in the amounts payable, in recognition of, at least in some measure, price inflation since introduction of the formula as follows, namely:- less than 20 members - £70; 20-40 members - £80; and more than 40 members - £90. The recommendations and other information presented in the Appendices attached to this report have been prepared on the basis of anticipation of the Local Committee's agreement to this proposal.

The Committee have also agreed to consider applications which might be submitted by such organisations in respect of specific projects, events etc.

(d) Older People's Organisations

- (i) **Purpose of Grant** - Having regard to the decision of this Committee on 31 January 2003 (Appendix 1), it is suggested that the purpose for which per capita grant awards are made to Older People's organisations should be changed from "Summer and Christmas activities" to "social and recreational activities" in order to reflect more accurately the purposes for which many of these groups apply for grant for. The Local Committee would still continue to be able to consider applications from Older People's Organisations in respect of activities which come outwith the definition of "social and recreational activities".
- (ii) **Level of Grant Awards** - Having regard to their decision on 31 January 2002 (Appendix 1), the Committee are asked to determine the rate at which the per capita element of grant awards to Older People's Organisations should be met.

To assist the Committee in this matter, attached at Appendix 5 is a list of Older People's Organisations which have applied for grant funding for this purpose; the Assessing Department's recommendations as to the grant awards in each case, based on assessments of the applications on a merit basis; and the amount of grant which each organisation could be awarded based on different per capita rates. The Members are reminded that the per capita rate for last year was £3.00 and that it has previously been agreed that in addition any further award of grant would be determined on the individual merits of each application and having regard to the amount of the per capita award. It is suggested that the value of any further grants awarded on merit basis should not exceed the amount of the recommended grant when added to the per capita element.

- 4.2** Having determined the matters referred to in 4.1 (a)-(d) above, the Committee are asked to consider and determine the individual applications detailed in Appendix 4.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Any community grant awarded will require to be met from the total financial allocation for 2003/2004, being £56,157.58.
- 5.2** As the Members of the Committee will be aware, the process relating to administration of community grants requires that every organisation which is awarded a grant, must provide a report to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources confirming use which has been made of the grant award and submitting any appropriate documentary evidence, i.e. invoices, receipts etc. In order to facilitate this important part of the process, it is recommended that the Committee agree that where a grant award is approved by the Committee to an organisation in respect of the current financial year, the grant payment be issued only when the organisation concerned has complied with the requirements relating to a grant award which it may have received during the last financial year.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** None arising directly from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that the Committee consider and deal with those matters identified in Paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 5.2 of this report.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

9 June 2003

SN/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Community Grant Application Forms submitted by local organisations.
2. Assessment forms prepared by Service Departments.

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.