

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 25 MARCH 2003

DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS TO OLDER PEOPLE'S GROUPS 2003/2004

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To set out the options available to the Doon Valley Local Committee for dealing with applications for community grants from Older People's Groups during the 2003/2004 financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Doon Valley Local Committee has made a practice of awarding grants on a per capita basis to the Old People's Welfare Associations and Age Concern Organisations.
- 2.2. At the Doon Valley Local Committee on 21 May 2002, the Committee agreed (i) to continue with the practice, as adopted in previous years, of applying a per capita formula to grants to Older People's organisations, including those affiliated to Age Concern, in respect of outings and Christmas parties, the per capita maximum during the current financial year to be £4.00; and (ii) that applications from Older People's Groups for grants to assist with other projects be considered on their merits.
- 2.3 Of the seven Local Committees within East Ayrshire, only two employ a per capita formula in the making of grants to this type of organisation, i.e. Cumnock Area and Doon Valley. The Cumnock Area Local Committee has recently reviewed this practice.
- 2.4 Following consultation with the Chair of this Committee, this report has been prepared to enable the Doon Valley Local Committee to carry out a similar review.

3. WHETHER GRANT AWARDS SHOULD BE MADE ON A "PER CAPITA" OR ON A "MERIT" BASIS

- 3.1 Bearing in mind the guidance contained within the Accounts Commission document "Following the Public Pound" whose principles have been endorsed by the Council and applied within its procedures, all grant applications should be considered on their own individual merits and assessed accordingly, having regard to the nature of the applying group, its activities, membership and the distribution of the benefit of the group's proposed activity.

- 3.2** The practice of per capita allocations creates the potential for raising expectations that grant funding will be awarded as a matter of course, on the basis of a formulised arrangement. The Local Grants Scheme is intended to react to local needs and the per capita arrangement reduces flexibility to react to changing local priorities.
- 3.3** Account also requires to be taken of the financial circumstances of the individual organisations concerned, some of whom may have significant, uncommitted bank balances, while others may have little or no reserve funds. The per capita arrangement also favours larger organisations over the smaller groups.
- 3.4** In view of the issues and guidance above, it is suggested that the Committee should consider all applications on their individual merits.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** None arising directly from this report.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1** It is requested that the Committee determine, in respect of applications from Older People's Groups how awards of grant should be made.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

10 March 2003

LC/SR

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** Following the Public Pound.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Lynn Chapman, Trainee Administrative Officer, on telephone number (01563) 576283. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number (01563) 576135.

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