

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE : 22 FEBRUARY 2001

CENTRALGRANTS BUDGETS HELD BY THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend that a review be undertaken of the central grants budgets held by the Policy and Resources Committee to ensure the most effective use of existing resources including the possibility of creating a match funding budget to maximise external funding opportunities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee has responsibility for the undernoted grants budgets :

Central Grants Budgets	2001/02
Policy & Resources Committee Central Budget	£205,030
Social Inclusion Challenge Budget	£65,000
North West Kilmarnock Youth Fund	£50,540

3.0 ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Currently the Central Grants Budget held by the Policy & Resources Committee Funds voluntary organisations where three year service level agreements have been put in place, whose objectives and activities support the Council's Plan. Accordingly, there is little scope now remaining for the committee to be able to respond to applications from other organisations to support new activity.
- 3.2 The Scottish Executive has recently announced additional funds in respect of the Social Inclusion Partnership for the Coalfield area for 2001/02 and 2002/03. In addition whilst the terms and conditions attached to the recently announced Better Neighbourhood Services Initiative have yet to be issued by the Scottish Executive, the Council will wish to consider carefully the way in which it deploys its own resources to best complement efforts to address social inclusion and poverty.

- 3.3 One of the key themes in the Council's plan is Inspiring Young People and requests for the Council to support young peoples projects are now being reviewed from a number of communities. There is a need to consider how best these projects can be resourced taking full account of the contributions our community planning partners may be able to make and the availability of other external funding.
- 3.4 In 2000/02 the council agreed to appoint an External Funding Officer and the post holder took up his position in October last year. Already it is evident that when making council applications or supporting voluntary organisations to secure additional external funding, every opportunity is taken to evidence the full impact of "in kind" resources. Officers are, however, of the view that the Council's efforts would be significantly strengthened and even greater progress could be made if there were to be a created match fund which could be called on to support applications.
- 3.5 Having regard to these issues it is recommended that the committee request the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to undertake a review of the current grant making arrangements in place in support of the Council's Plan and social inclusion programmes and bring forward proposals to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any proposals will relate to existing budgets and will seek to offer arrangements whereby the attraction of further external funds will be facilitated.

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee request the Depute Chief Executive to undertake a review of the current grant making arrangements in place in support of the Council's Plan and social inclusion programmes and bring forward proposals to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee

Fiona Lees
DCE/DCR
15/02/01

List of Background Papers
Nil

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Fiona Lees
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AGENDA