

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2000

LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To propose the allocation of funding to Local Committees in respect of the Council's Community Grants Budget for 2000/2001.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Special Policy and Resources Committee of 8 March 2000 agreed that the budget for the Council's Community Grants Scheme for 2000/2001 is £165,563.
- 2.2 The meeting of the Chair's Sub-Committee of the Policy & Resources Committee of 6 April 1999 agreed to maintain the existing percentage allocations for the Community Grants Budget to Local Committees pending a review in the light of changes to ward boundaries following the 1999 Local Elections.
- 2.3 The meeting of the Emergency Powers Committee of 20 May 1999 agreed revised Local Committee percentage allocations for Financial Year 1999/2000 based on the previously agreed funding formula but incorporating updated population statistics in line with the new ward boundaries.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISED FUNDING FORMULA

- 3.1 The Community Grants Scheme was established following approval of a report by the Chief Executive to the Policy and Resources Committee of 1 May 1996. Whilst various subsequent reports introduced minor modifications, this report set out the basis of the Council's approach to the distribution of the Community Grants Budget to Local Committees. The principal objective of the Scheme in supporting the Council's Social Strategy is 'to develop and put into practice a system of resource allocation which prioritises to those most in need'. Accordingly, a formula was developed which took into consideration issues of deprivation and poverty in conjunction with a client based approach recognising vulnerability. The following statistical categories were adopted:-

- Population;
- Deprivation;
- Non-Urban Programme designation;
- Elderly;
- Rurality; and
- Clothing grants.

3.2 It is proposed that whilst the Council's overall approach to the disbursement of the Community Grants Budget should continue to seek to support the objectives set out at paragraph 3.1 above, there is now a requirement to look again at the range of indicators used to ensure that these are relevant and up to date. The following section describes each of these indicators and any changes which have been incorporated to arrive at the funding formula set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.2.1 Population

(i) Population continues to be a core statistics in the revised formula. The population statistics have been provided by the Planning Division and are derived from the 1998 Voluntary Population Survey (VPS). The Committee will be aware that the next Census results will not be available until 2003 and in these circumstances the VPS can be used as an estimate of key population statistics for service planning. These revised population statistics were included in the previous update report approved by the 20 May 1999 meeting of the Emergency Powers Committee. Table 1 below identifies the total population by Local Committee area.

Table 1 – Total Population by Local Committee Area

Local Committee	Total Population
Northern Area	15,633
Kilmarnock Central	17,773
Kilmarnock North	15,610
Kilmarnock South	12,342
Irvine Valley	19,348
Cumnock	30,878
Doon Valley	11,684

3.2.2 Elderly

(i) The existing formula recognises the fact that many elderly people aged 60 and over suffer from social and economic exclusion. This indicator continues to be relevant and has been retained in the revised formula. The statistics for this indicator have been provided by the Planning Division and are derived from the 1998 VPS. Table 2 below shows the total population in age bracket 60+ within each Local Committee area.

Table 2 - Total Population age 60+ by Local Committee Area

Local Committee	Total Population Age 60+
Northern Area	2665
Kilmarnock Central	4295
Kilmarnock North	2458
Kilmarnock South	2687
Irvine Valley	3643
Cumnock	6270
Doon Valley	2206

3.2.3 Deprivation

- (i) The existing formula relies on an indicator of deprivation which has been superseded by a revised Scottish Area Deprivation Index developed by the Scottish Executive. This revised indicator draws on data over a wider range of areas including overcrowding, participation at school (defined as students in full-time education relative to all 17-18 year olds), children in dependent only households, standardised mortality ratios and Income Support claimants. Based on this index the Scottish Executive has ranked the worst 20% postcodes across Scotland, that is, those areas experiencing the greatest deprivation. The relevant postcode sectors within East Ayrshire included within this worst 20% category and the total population residing in these postcode sectors by Local Committee area are identified in Table 3.

Table 3– Communities within East Ayrshire included within Top 20% Most Deprived Areas

Local Committee Area	East Ayrshire Postcode Sector	Community	Total Population within Postcode Sectors
Kilmarnock North	KA3.1	Longpark/Altonhill	14670
	KA3.2	Onthank/Toponthank	
Doon Valley	KA6.7	Drongan/Bellsbank Dalmellington	9901
Kilmarnock South	KA1.4	Shortlees/Riccarton	7564
Cumnock	KA18.2 KA18.3 KA18.4	Auchinleck Netherthird/Muirkirk New Cumnock	16142

3.2.4 Clothing and Footwear Grants

- (i) Whilst the Scottish Area Deprivation Index identifies concentrations of deprivation, the take up of Footwear and Clothing Grants within East Ayrshire schools is a means of determining the spread of poverty across the Council's area. Current statistics have therefore been obtained from the Education Department for this indicator and incorporated into the revised formula. The percentage take up of Footwear and Clothing Grants for Primary Schools by Local Committee areas is shown in Table 4 below. It should be noted that Secondary Schools have been excluded from this indicator since their wider catchment areas may obscure the actual source of poverty.

Table 4 – Number of Primary School Children Receiving Clothing and Footwear Grants by Local Committee Area

Local Committee	Number of Children receiving Clothing and Footwear Grants
Northern Area	289
Kilmarnock Central	347
Kilmarnock North	943
Kilmarnock South	589
Irvine Valley	515
Cumnock	1316
Doon Valley	612

3.2.5 Non-Urban Programme Designation

- (i) Included within the existing funding formula was a heading entitled 'Non-Urban Programme Designation' which was intended to equalise the benefits gained by certain areas of East Ayrshire to all communities. Although certain projects initially funded through the Urban Programme continue to operate through direct funding from the Council, the Urban Programme has ceased and this heading has, therefore been deleted from the funding formula.
- (ii) In 1999 the Scottish Executive approved a Social Inclusion Programme for the former Coalfield area in the south of the authority. Accordingly, the proposed funding formula incorporates a factor which seeks to provide an element of compensation to those parts of the authority which do not benefit from Central Government SIP funding. This has been derived from the addition of 10% to the total population of Local Committee areas outwith the Coalfield SIP, the sum of which equates to the level of compensation previously allocated under the Non-Urban Programme designation.

3.2.6 Rurality

- (i) It is widely recognised that rural areas as well as urban areas can suffer from multiple deprivation. In fact, deprivation in rural areas is often compounded by isolation and remoteness principally from major transport nodes and centres of economic activity. Research commissioned by the Scottish Executive in devising

the Scottish Area Deprivation Index acknowledges that this indicator better reflects deprivation in an urban context and that it is necessary, therefore, to consider how rural deprivation can also be taken fully into account. It is therefore proposed to retain as an indicator the Scottish Executive's measure of rurality, that is, those post code sectors with a population density of less than 100 persons per square kilometre. This information has been provided by the Planning Division. Table 5 below identifies those post code sectors within East Ayrshire which are classified as rural and the resulting population by Local Committee area.

Table 5 - Rural Post Code Sectors within East Ayrshire

Local Committee	Postcode Sector	Community	Population within Postcode Sector
Northern Area	KA3 4 KA3.6	Dunlop/Lugton Fenwick/Waterside	3,119
Irvine Valley	KA16 9 KA17 0	Newmilns Darvel/Priestland	13,328
Cumnock	KA5 6 KA18 2 KA18 3 KA18 4	Mauchline/Catrine/Sorn Ochiltree/Sinclairston/Skares Logan/Lugar/Muirkirk New Cumnock	21,655
Doon Valley	KA5 5 KA6 6 KA6 7	Stair/Trabboch Dalrymple/Hollybush/Drongan Bellsbank/Dalmellington/ Rankinston	11,684

- Note:-**
1. Where Postcode Sectors extend beyond East Ayrshire Council's administrative boundaries, only those people within the Postcode Sector who reside in East Ayrshire are included in the above statistics.
 2. Crookedholm falls within Postcode Sector KA3 6. The population of Crookedholm (969) has therefore been added to the Irvine Valley Local Committee total.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The overall level of funding being distributed to local committees is contained within the Community Grants budget allocation of £165,563 which was agreed at the Special Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 8 March 2000.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) agree to the distribution of finance to Local Committees on the basis of the range of indicators detailed in Paragraph 3 and as set out in Appendix 1 of this report; and
- (ii) otherwise note the terms of this report.

David Montgomery
Chief Executive

MO'R/CMacD
21 March 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Anyone wishing further information should contact Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive on tel (01563) 576091.

Implementation Officer - Martin O'Rourke, e-mail: martin.orourke@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX

1

Proposed Distribution of Community Grants Budget

Local Committee	Total Population	Elderly Popn. Age 60+	Population in Postcode Sectors Classified as Deprived	Non Coalfield SIP Designation	Clothing and Footwear Grants	Population in Rural Postcode Sectors	Total Pointage	%	Proposed Allocation £
Northern Area	15,633	2,665		1,563	289	3,119	23,269	9.0	14,901
Kilmarnock Central	17,773	4,295		1,777	347		24,192	9.4	15,563
Kilmarnock North	15,610	2,458	14,670	1,561	943		35,242	13.6	22,517
Kilmarnock South	12,342	2,687	7,564	1,234	589		24,416	9.5	15,728
Irvine Valley	19,348	3,643		1,934	515	13,328	38,768	15.0	24,834
Cumnock Area	30,878	6,270	16,142		1,316	21,655	76,261	29.5	48,841
Doon Valley	11,684	2,206	9,901		612	11,684	36,087	14.0	23,179
							258,235		TOTAL £165,56

AGENDA