

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 28 NOVEMBER 2002

COUNCIL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give details of various grants available from the Council to voluntary organisations/external agencies.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Northern Area Local Committee of 4 September 2002 (Item 8, Page 2740), while considering a report on the criteria for funding voluntary sector grants by the Education Committee, the Committee requested that a report be prepared which would detail all grant criteria, processes and procedures applicable in respect of all grant funding available from East Ayrshire Council, for submission to this Committee.

3. GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM THE COUNCIL

- 3.1 The Council Departments have been consulted on details of what type of grants are available and what the criteria is to consider such grants.
- 3.2 All applications require, in the first instance, to be routed through the Administration Section who are responsible for inputting receipt of the application into the Council database and thereafter passing to the appropriate Department for further processing.
- 3.4 The following information has been compiled by the Departments concerned.

4. SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - SECTION 10 GRANTS

- 4.1 Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allows Local Authorities to make contributions, by way of grants or loans, to any voluntary organisation whose sole purpose is the promotion of social welfare. The undernoted criteria is used in assessing applications for Section 10 Funding:-

- does the voluntary organisation provide services to people in East Ayrshire from a base in East Ayrshire?;
- does the voluntary organisation provide services to people in East Ayrshire from a base outwith East Ayrshire?;
- does the voluntary organisation have a national profile and a reputation in its area of expertise?; and
- does the service provided compliment or supplement a service already provided by the Council and represent value for money?

4.2 Applications are presented to the Social Work Committee for consideration on an annual basis.

4.3 The Social Work Committee on 23 May 2002 agreed some changes to the Section 10 Funding arrangements and these are as follows:-

- organisations receiving Section 10 Funding and undertaking major service provision on behalf of the Council as core funding for their operation, funding for these organisations be transferred out of the Section 10 budget and managed as mainstream funding, subject to service level agreements of a 3 year duration;
- for organisations receiving Section 10 Funding and responsibility for monitoring and overseeing the use made of the funding by individual organisations is vested in Officers who carry no responsibility for the overall Section 10 budget, the budget associated with those organisations should be transferred to the Head of Service whose staff monitor and supervise their use of the funding; and
- it is proposed that once the transfer detailed above has been completed, a modest Section 10 budget be recreated by realigning existing budgets.

5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE - VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS

5.1 Voluntary Sector Grants are considered in the following categories:-

- Education voluntary sector grants to assist voluntary and community based groups to develop and deliver community based projects; and
- Adult education childcare grants for childcare support to adult education initiatives.

5.2 In both categories of grants, applicants are expected to meet a number of requirements. The criteria for awards are:-

- where applicants are community groups or voluntary organisations they should have a valid constitution;
- applicants should have or be able to make arrangements for proper accounts to be maintained;
- applications should have a bank account held in the name of the group or organisation with a minimum of two signatories;
- the work of the organisation should be essentially educational in nature; and
- that the grant aid expenditure should have clear benefits for East Ayrshire.

5.3 Other key criteria to be considered include:-

- the grant aid expenditure should contribute to community development;
- the work of the organisation should address one or more strategic issues;

- the grant aided expenditure can contribute to economic regeneration through developing access to employment;
- the grant aided aspect of the work of the organisation is complimentary to the work of Support to Communities;
- the grant aided expenditure assists in training and the development work of the organisation; and
- the grant aided expenditure is part of a broader collaborative strategy with other departments, agencies or services and community organisations.

5.4 Where funding is sought for out of school care projects, the applicant should meet the basic eligibility criteria as cited above and should meet the requirements of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001.

6. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

6.1 Grants to Bands

6.1.1 The Awards to Bands Scheme is administered by the Community Services department and considers applications from bands which are based in the East Ayrshire area. The Scheme supports the running costs of bands.

6.1.2 Bands which receive an award are obliged to complete a performance agreement which confirms their availability to provide up to three performances for East Ayrshire Council per annum, if asked.

6.1.3 The maximum grant per band is £400.

6.2 Grants to Voluntary Organisations

6.2.1 Applications are considered from organisations which are voluntary in nature, i.e. not for profit, and which are properly constituted.

6.2.2 The organisations should serve a national or East Ayrshire wide community.

6.2.3 The applications are assessed in terms of a number of key criteria which include:-

- the quality of service being provided;
- the level of impact upon or the level of contribution being made to the wider East Ayrshire Community, i.e. the way in which the organisation meets the particular needs of the community to which they refer;
- the way in which the objectives of the organisation intersects with the Council's core strategic policy statements; and
- the way in which the organisation contributes to the strategic development of leisure within the East Ayrshire area.

7. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

- 7.1** The Development Services Department does not have a scheme for grants to voluntary organisations. The Department does, however, have grants available for business development support. In addition, an annual report is presented to the Development Services Committee in respect of grants to external agencies, however, this is for affiliation fees and grants to partner organisations.

8. HOUSING COMMITTEE

- 8.1** The Homes and Technical Services Department does not have a scheme for grants to voluntary organisations. The Department does, however, have grants available for Tenants' Associations. This allows for a set-up grant of £150 and an annual operating grant based on the formula of £0.25 per house with a minimum level set at £100.

9. LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

- 9.1** Members will be familiar with the Grants Scheme for Local Committees which is intended to give grant assistance to any constituted local voluntary organisation to provide or maintain cultural, social welfare, recreational or sporting facilities or to promote these activities, and to assist community based projects that are in the interest of the local area.
- 9.2** The broad categories are Arts and Cultural, Community Safety, Disability, Children's Services, Environmental, Ethnic Minorities, Heritage, Leisure Activities, Older People, Sport, Women's Issues, and Young People.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1** In the current financial year the Council has made available a total of £625,080, to the grants schemes detailed in this report, to support the development of community and voluntary groups. This is a significant investment by the Council which has resulted in hundreds of groups both locally and nationally being supported.
- 10.2** In addition, through the External Funding Network and the work of the External Funding and Sustainability Officer, significant additional resources have been attracted into the area.
- 10.3** In order to make certain that the Council maximises all opportunities and ensures the best possible funding is available for groups to access, it is proposed that a further review of the Council's processes is carried out to ensure the processes are as effective as possible and that they enable the maximum amount of external funding to be secured.

- 11. POLICY/LLEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - Nil arising from this report**

12. RECOMMENDATION

12.1 The Committee is asked:-

- (i) to note the information contained within the report; and
- (ii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to carry out a review in the new financial year of the various funding schemes operating within the Council in order to further streamline the system and ensure the maximum amount of external funding can be secured.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

13 November 2002
JA/LR

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on telephone number (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.