

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: COMMUNITY COUNCILS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 7 February 2003	Ref: JAF/IL	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations with regard to the level of financial support to Community Councils for financial year 2003/4 and the information provided to Community Councils with regard to the purposes for which such financial assistance is provided by the Council.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 In terms of Section 55 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 local authorities have power to make such contributions as they think fit towards the expenses of Community Councils within their areas.
- 2.2 North Lanarkshire Council has exercised that function on the basis of a formula involving a flat rate payment together with a sum per 100 of electorate to reflect anticipated additional demands on larger Community Councils. In accordance with that formula the Committee, at its meeting on 27 February 2002, agreed that the fixed sum for the current financial year be £450.00 to which would be added £9.00 per hundred of electorate in the Community Council area, rounded up to the nearest hundred.
- 2.3 Having regard to the Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound produced by the Accounts Commission for Scotland and COSLA it is appropriate that Community Councils be expressly advised of the purpose for which the Council provides financial assistance.

3. **Proposals**

- 3.1 With regard to financial year 2003/2004 it is recommended that the Committee adhere to the formula previously adopted and agree that the level of financial assistance to Community Councils remain unchanged at a fixed sum of £450.00 together with £9.00 per hundred of electorate rounded up to the nearest hundred.
- 3.2 It is proposed, also, that on the award of funding each Community Council be advised that the funding is provided to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Council and for no other purpose whatsoever and, in particular and without prejudice to the foregoing generality, must not be used for the publication of any material which a local authority in Scotland is prohibited from publishing or for any other activity at variance with the controls and restrictions on local authorities in Scotland.

4. **Corporate Considerations**

4.1 This report is consistent with Council policy and involves no adverse financial, legal or corporate considerations.

5. **Recommendation**

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee give consideration to the foregoing proposals.

John Fleming

Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.