

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: AREA COMMITTEES		Subject: COMMUNITY FORUM - EXPENSES	
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES			
Date: 27.08.03	Ref: JMcG/BP/PW		

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Area Committees of the budget available to support the development of the roles of area committees and community forums.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2001/2002 the Council agreed as part of its budget exercise to set aside £12,000 for the purpose of the development of area committees and community forums. At its meeting of 30 May 2001 the Community Services Committee approved the disbursement of the funds to allow an allocation of £750 to each community forum and a further allocation of £1,000 to each area committee.

Arrangements were put in place by the Department of Community Services to ensure community forums gain access to these funds.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The budget available in 2003/2004 is £12,000. The levels of funding expended by community forums to date would suggest that the original levels of £750 were sufficient for meeting running and administration costs. Where forums embarked upon particular projects, additional contributions have been secured from area committee allocations.

Whilst the number of forums, that is 8, remain constant, 2 have suspended their activities due to reduction in community participation. This matter is currently being addressed by the area committee concerned in conjunction with officers from Community Services.

4. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDING

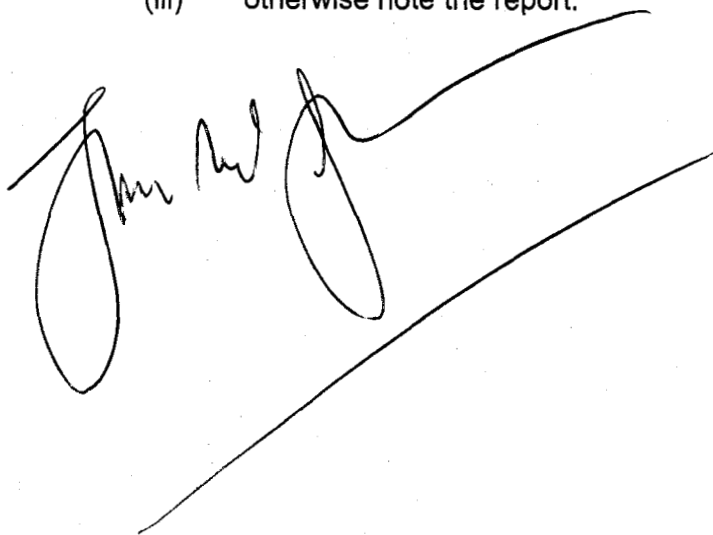
4.1 Each of the community forums are at different stages of development and have differing structures and membership levels. Fund needs also differ and indeed some forums have made timely use of the funds already provided.

It is proposed that in keeping with previous year, £750 be ringfenced for each forum and issued when required in accordance with the financial controls set out in the standard conditions of funding. The remaining £6,000 would then be dispersed to the area committees on the basis of £1,000 per area.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the area committee:

- (i) agree to ringfence £750 for each community forum within the area committee boundary;
- (ii) agree the allocation of £1,000 to the area committee; and
- (iii) otherwise note the report.

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