

REPORT

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: INTERIM COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME AND WARD ALLOCATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR AREA PROJECTS/ INITIATIVES
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Date: 22 August, 1996	Ref: AIC/MC/AF	

1. Introduction

1.1 The Council has established a Community Grants Scheme and the purpose of this report is to consider procedures for dealing with requests for funding for area projects/initiatives/service enhancements which require to be undertaken by Council departments.

2. Area Projects/Service Enhancements

2.1 In the previous two-tier system of local government District Councils often agreed to fund requests from Regional Council groups/institutions and vice versa and some of the community grant ideas suggested so far have included proposals which are based on past practice. Now that the Council is a Unitary Authority it would be inappropriate for a grant to be awarded directly to an establishment owned by the Authority. In some cases there is no applicant in strict terms.

2.2 The Interim Community Grants Scheme cannot meet such applications. However, this scheme is interim pending the formation of area committees which may have their own budgets. It would be entirely appropriate for such committees to have the power to spend money on local projects or initiatives or to enhance the general level of a particular service or function. If this is acceptable then it would also seem acceptable now to have a system whereby a councillor could request a service enhancement, project or initiative, that this be costed as necessary and that the Community Development Sub-Committee consider the proposal and, if thought appropriate, approve the expenditure, on the basis that it is deducted from the relevant ward allocation. The individual member would be aware that the scope for grants from the allocation to his or her ward had been reduced but all members would still have the same individual total ward allocation.

2.3 The only exceptions at this stage would be projects which were related to council housing stock. Eventually, the Council can consider area committee budgets for both general and housing services but at present the money for the ward allocations comes from the Council Tax account and cannot therefore be spent on the housing account.

2.4 A few grant requests have been received from head teachers and it would again seem inappropriate for council employees to be seeking council grants. PTA requests would be a different matter but it is suggested that the views of the Director of Education be sought on current requests from head teachers.

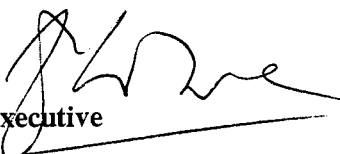
- 2.5 Annex A to this report identifies (1) current suggestions for consideration by Committee, (2) other suggestions requiring costings and (3) education requests for consultation with the Director of Education; in all cases if the Committee approves the proposals in this report.
- 2.6 Consideration of these issues may also identify matters which could be dealt with either by the mainstream service committee or another grant source.

3. **Proposed Procedures**

- 3.1 If a request is received from a councillor for a project/service enhancement it would be submitted to the appropriate department for costing and then to the Community Development Sub-Committee for consideration. (In future it is anticipated that requests would be received by the Area Liaison Director for consideration by the Area Committee).
- 3.2 On approval the amount awarded would be transferred from the Interim-Community Grants Scheme/Ward Allocation budget to the appropriate department with instructions on what was required.
- 3.3 The department would then make the necessary arrangements in accordance with the Sub-Committee decision, ensuring that the action was seen as having been initiated by the local councillor(s).
- 3.4 The amount transferred would be coded against the appropriate Ward allocation(s).

4. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee approve procedures as outlined in the report and give consideration to the projects listed in Annex A.


Chief Executive

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

AREA PROJECTS

SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Group	Purpose	Cost	Dept.	Ward
78 - Auchengeich Residents Club	purchase of 3 benches for communal garden within sheltered housing complex	£600	Leisure Services	68
118 - Motherwell Museum Group	assistance to purchase a public address system and install into library	£150	Leisure Services	1-5 and 11,12,13
133 - Strathview Residents Association	assistance to erect perimeter fence around play area	£2,000 Leisure Services will pay £1,100	Leisure Services	25

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

AREA PROJECTS

SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Group	Purpose	Cost	Dept.	Ward
Councillor McKendrick	erection of Christmas lights owned by Newmains Community Council	£1,500 (awaiting confirmation of quote from Construction Services)	Construction Services	16
Councillor McGhee	erection of hanging baskets in Pather and Gowkthrapple	No quote available	Leisure Services	14
Councillor Cefferty	garden competition scheme	No quote available	Leisure Services	20
Councillor McGhee	garden competition scheme	Provisional quote of £600	Leisure Services	14

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION REQUESTS

Group	Purpose	Cost	Dept.	Ward
Holytown Primary School	purchase of equipment	£100	Education	27
Calderhead High School	assistance with costs of running a senior leadership course	£225	Education	17,18 and 20
Calderhead High School	purchase of awards for school prize giving	£225	Education	17,18 and 20
St. Bernadette's Primary School	school transport and excursions	£100	Education	4

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

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Date: 23 August 1996

John O'Hagan
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Members of the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee Agenda

I refer to the agenda for the Meeting of the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee to be held on Wednesday, 28 August 1996 and enclose, for your attention, a copy of a report by the Chief Executive regarding Interim Community Grants Scheme - Local Projects Initiative which should be considered in connection with item 3(b).

Yours faithfully,



J Director of Administration

Encl.