

Report

Report to:	Hamilton Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	26 August 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Community Grant Applications
----------	-------------------------------------

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval for the allocation of community grants to 2 community groups in the Hamilton area from the 2020/2021 community grant budget

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

(1) that community grants be awarded as follows:-

(a) Applicant:	Low Waters Miners Welfare Bowling Club, Hamilton (HA/12/20)
Amount Requested:	£750
Purpose of Grant:	Materials
Amount Awarded:	£400

(b) Applicant:	Wooddean Community Project Organisation, Hamilton (HA/14/20)
Amount Requested:	£600
Purpose of Grant:	Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded:	£400

(2) that a report on awards made to assist community groups engaged in supporting their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee for noting.

3. Background

3.1. The Council operates a community grants scheme to support local constituted community groups and voluntary organisations. All applications require to be supported by a constitution, audited accounts or annual income and expenditure accounts, a bank statement and confirmation that the group/organisation will adhere to the conditions of the grant award. Applications are invited continually throughout the year.

3.2. The main aims of the community grants scheme are to:-

- ◆ fund activities and projects which bring community benefit
- ◆ involve people in the community by bringing them together to enjoy educational, recreational, leisure and other community activities or to improve the local environment

3.3. Support can be provided for a range of activities including, administration and publicity costs, purchase of equipment and materials, annual outings and entrance fees, start-up costs and special events.

3.4. In respect of those applications received for the purpose of outings and for special events to take place over the forthcoming months, due to the current uncertainty in relation to COVID-19, it is proposed that those applications be approved, in principle. This will provide organisations with the flexibility to reschedule outings and events to a later date, if possible. Groups will be asked to inform the Council of their intentions in this regard. Should an organisation be unable to use the grant award for the planned purpose, the grant funds will require to be returned. As per normal procedure, receipts for all spend must be provided.

3.5. On 1 May 2020, a briefing note was issued to elected members outlining a proposal to use £20,000 from the 2020/2021 community grant budget to assist community groups engaged in supporting their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The £20,000 would be apportioned equally between the 4 Area Committee areas.

3.6. Community groups who are providing or wish to provide assistance and support to those most in need are able to apply for small grants to meet expenses incurred as a result of or associated with this work. As funds may be required immediately to assist in the response effort, applications will be considered by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair. A report on the awards made will be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee for noting.

3.7. As per the community grants scheme, community groups would normally only be permitted to submit one application in each financial year, however, community groups that applied for funding to assist in the COVID-19 response would be entitled to apply for a grant for another purpose under the scheme in the same financial year.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. None.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The current position of the community grant allocation for the Hamilton Area Committee in 2020/2021 is as follows:-

Total allocation for Community Grants	£25,750
Grants previously allocated	£3,650
*Funding allocated to the COVID-19 response effort	£5,000
Community grants allocated in this report	£800
Remaining balance	£16,300

* As referred to in paragraph 3.5 above

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no significant implications in terms of climate change, sustainability or environmental issues.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The risk to the Council is that grant funding is not utilised for the purpose of which it was intended. This risk is mitigated by internal controls including audit procedures and conditions of grant agreement.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

- 8.2. All the necessary consultation with the community groups has taken place.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

10 August 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent. Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

Previous References

- ♦ Hamilton Area Committee – 27 May 2020

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Individual applications forms

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Geraldine Wilkinson, Clerical Assistant

Ext: 4818 (Tel: 01698 454818)

E-mail: geraldine.wilkinson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk