

GRANTS TO THIRD SECTOR 2010/11

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report details changes to the grant monitoring process and updates members on modifications to the system for awarding Third Sector grant funding in 2012/13.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Grant application form for 2010/11 amalgamated three former grant schemes operated by the Council (Education Development, Leisure Development and Social Welfare grants) and also incorporated events and festivals.
- 2.2. The grants previously assessed by Area Education and Social Work Managers are now administered and assessed by the Community Development team. Consolidating grants and the assessment process has led to a more robust and focused approach.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Elected members are asked to note the contents of the report.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The grant application form, assessment form, contract, and end of year reports have been modified for 2012/13. All revisions have been discussed with Quality Assurance and Internal Audit in order to meet the requirements of Best Value and Following the Public Pound.
- 4.2 A report was submitted to the MAKI Area Committee in December 2011 which detailed the information received from applicants who were awarded funding in 2010/11. This identified some gaps in the information being provided by applicants and difficulties with timing for Area Committees. Thus, a further update was requested by the Committee.
- 4.3 The End of Year Report form for grant recipients has now been amended, in light of the lessons learnt, to ensure the information collected for grants awarded in 2011/12 is more informative and meaningful. The following additional information will now be gathered:
- Actual spend in relation to the projected spend detailed by applicants in their application forms.
 - Actual match funding received, in relation to match funding sought, as detailed in the application forms.

This will highlight whether the grant awarded equated to more than 50% of the total cost of the project.

- 4.4 In addition, the 'End of Year Report' has been renamed an 'End of Project Monitoring Report' and will be issued to successful applicants with their contracts, rather than at the end of the year, in order to try to speed up the process for receiving information. All monitoring reports must be completed within three months of the end of the project. For those organisations that receive funding for year long projects the monitoring report will be required by the end of June.
- 4.5 The grant application process for 2012/13 has been announced through press releases and advertising in local papers. Information, along with the application form, is on the Council website at: <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants>.

The deadline for the first round of applications to be considered at the area committee on the 4th April is 24 February 2012.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Changes have been made to the Third Sector Grant monitoring process for grants awarded in 2011/12 to enable more detailed reporting to Area Committee. The modifications to the application and assessment process will be carried into the start of the grant application process for 2012/13.

5 IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None

Finance: Possible return of TSG funds to the Council

Personnel: None

Legal: None

Equal Opportunities: The grant allocation is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.

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