

Third Sector Grants – recommendations from Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee considered reports which related to the allocation of Third Sector Grants at the Meeting held on 11 August 2015 and at a Special Meeting held on 8 September 2015.
- 1.2 The Area Committee made a number of recommendations at these meetings some of which were outwith the delegation of the Committee and will require approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 1.3 Policy and Resources Committee is asked to agree the following:-
- (1) Recognise the exceptional weather circumstances that resulted in the cancellation of the entire Helensburgh Highland Games and partial abandonment of the Rosneath Highland Games and agrees:-
 - (a) that grant recipients provide evidence to the council of the costs incurred due to losses, to enable the amount of “unspent grant” to be determined in each case;
 - (b) a variation to the contract with both community organisations allow them to carry forward these ‘unspent grant’ funds to 2016/17;
 - (c) the organisation provide an assurance that the event is planned to take place in 2016/17. In the event that the organisation cannot provide an assurance, that ‘unspent grant’ is refunded.
 - (2) Allow the Area Committee to carry forward any Third Sector Grant balances in excess of the 10% of the total available.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee considered reports which related to the allocation of Third Sector Grants at the Meeting held on 11 August 2015 and at a Special Meeting held on 8 September 2015. The Area Committee made a number of recommendations at these meetings some of which were outwith the delegation of the Committee and will require approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee:-

- (1) Recognise the exceptional weather circumstances that resulted in the cancellation of the entire Helensburgh Highland Games and partial abandonment of the Rosneath Highland Games and agrees:-
 - (a) that grant recipients provide evidence to the council of the costs incurred due to losses, to enable the amount of “unspent grant” to be determined in each case;
 - (b) a variation to the contract with both community organisations allow them to carry forward these ‘unspent grant’ funds to 2016/17;
 - (c) the organisation provide an assurance that the event is planned to take place in 2016/17. In the event that the organisation cannot provide an assurance, that ‘unspent grant’ is refunded.
- (2) Allow the Area Committee to carry forward any Third Sector Grant balances in excess of the 10% of the total available.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee considered the second round of applications for Third Sector grants at the meeting held on 11 August 2015. At the meeting the Community Development Officer advised that both the

Helensburgh and Lomond Highland Games and the Rosneath Highland Games had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

4.2 The Area Committee discussed the officer recommendation that a proportion of the £4000 grant awarded to the organisations be returned as the applicants had not delivered on the event as is required in the contract between the organisation and the Council. Members were of the view that further information was required before any decision could be taken on the matter and this was provided at the Special Area Committee meeting held on 8 September 2015.

4.3 The Area Committee also discussed the monitoring report on the Third Sector Grants and at conclusion of the discussion on this item, Members asked that a recommendation be made to the Policy and Resources Committee to approve:-

“that any balance remaining in the Third Sector Grants budget which is above the threshold of the 10% already agreed be carried forward to the 2016/17 Financial year for allocation.”

4.4 At the Special Area Committee meeting, Members considered a report which provided an update on the position in relation to both Helensburgh Highland Games and Rosneath Highland Games. The report also provided information on advice received in relation to the contract between the organisations and the Council in respect of the grant awards and the possible options available. Following a full discussion, and a Motion and Amendment being tabled, the Area Committee agreed to recommend that Policy and Resources Committee:-

- (1) Recognise the exceptional weather circumstances that resulted in the cancellation of the entire Helensburgh Highland Games and partial abandonment of the Rosneath Highland Games and agrees:-
 - (a) that grant recipients provide evidence to the council of the costs incurred due to losses, to enable the amount of “unspent grant” to be determined in each case;
 - (b) a variation to the contract with both community organisations to allow them to carry forward these ‘unspent grant’ funds to 2016/17;
 - (c) the organisation provide an assurance that the event is planned to take place in 2016/17. In the event that the organisation cannot provide an assurance, that ‘unspent grant’ is refunded.
- (2) Allow the Area Committee to carry forward any Third Sector Grant balances in excess of the 10% of the total available.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Area Committee considered the latest round of Third Sector Grants at the meeting in August, and asked for further information in relation to the funding for the Highland Games in both Helensburgh and Rosneath. This information was

provided to Members at a Special meeting of the Area Committee held on 8 September, at which time a number of recommendations were agreed and these are being referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

- 5.2 The Policy and Resources Committee agreed at the meeting in October 2014 that Area Committees would be allowed to carry forward any balance remaining in their Third Sector Grants allocation up to a maximum of 10% of the total available. The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee is now asking that they be allowed to carry forward any balances which are above the 10% already agreed, this has been recommended at both the August and September meetings and is now being referred to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 6.1 | Policy | The recommendations are asking for a decision to be made which does not accord with the current Third Sector grants policy. |
| 6.2 | Financial | None |
| 6.3 | Legal | None |
| 6.4 | HR | None |
| 6.5 | Equalities | None |
| 6.6 | Risk | The proposed approach is not in line with the normal practice in relation to grant contract, this will have to be closely monitored. |
| 6.7 | Customer Service | None |

Executive Director of Customer Services

Policy Lead Councillor Robin Currie

8 October 2015

For further information contact: Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager

Tel: (01436) 657605

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report to Special Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee meeting held on 8 September 2015.

Appendix 2 – Extract from Meeting of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee held on 11 August 2015

Appendix 3 – Extract from Special Meeting of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee held on 8 September 2015.