

MONITORING OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUNDING 2017/18

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 We are currently asking community projects funded in 2017/2018 to return required end of project monitoring forms. This report outlines a request received to carry forward funding from 2017/18 to 2018/19 and Committee is asked to consider this.
- 1.2 Officers are recommending that funds be returned in full and for the grantee to consider reapplying to a future deadline of the Supporting Communities Fund.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 End of project monitoring forms must be returned a maximum of 3 months after the project completion and end of contract. For projects funded in 2017/18 this is end June 2018. A full report on use of the funding for 2017/18, informed by these end of project monitoring forms, will come to Area committee in September 2018.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members agree that Rhu and Shandon Community Council return £3,420 to the Council.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 There has been a request from the grantee: Rhu and Shandon Community Council, to carry forward funding of £3,420, into 2018/19 to undertake all of the works within their project applied for in 2017/18. The project is the Rhu and Shandon Conservation Area Appraisal. Funds were originally received on 10th May 2017.
- 4.2 The grantee has not been able to undertake any of the project spend, as per their contract. There is therefore a contractual requirement to return unspent funds.

- 4.3 Notwithstanding the merit of the original project and the good intentions of those involved to go to lengths to develop an approach for it to be delivered in 2018/19, the grantee has proposed significant revisions to the delivery of the project, including a change in the match funding profile and delay to the estimated completion date. The proposed alternative carries risk in both delivery and timing.
- 4.4 A request to extend spend to end of March 2019 risks that, should the project not be completed, the return of funds would be too late to be included with the distribution available in the next round of funding. This will prevent community projects from accessing much needed funds.
- 4.5 The revised match funding profile includes in kind contributions, a personal donation and the exchange of professional services, this information was not in the original application. This requires reapplication to the fund and subsequent reassessment.
- 4.6 The applicant should re-apply to the Supporting Communities Fund with their new proposal.
- 4.7 Officers take a fair and consistent approach to monitoring spend of Supporting Communities Funding. The recommendation to return funds is in line with normal procedure.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The grantee has failed to deliver the project within the agreed timescale in and is contractually obliged to return the funding. A revised delivery proposal carries risk both in delivery method and proposed timescales.
- 5.2 In accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, officers recommend that funds be returned in full.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy: None
- 6.2 Financial: Return to be reallocated in 2018/19.
- 6.3 Legal: Contract of grant award to be adhered to.
- 6.4 HR: None
- 6.5 Equalities: The grant allocation is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council
- 6.6 Risk: Return of funds reduces risk
- 6.7 Customer Service: None

**Cleland Sneddon,
Chief Executive, Chief Executive's Unit**

**Councillor Robin Currie,
Policy Lead for Communities, Housing, Islands and Gaelic**

12th June 2018

For further information please contact:

Rona Gold,
Community Planning Manager,
Community Planning and Community Development,
rona.gold@argyll-bute.gov.uk
01436 658862