

Grantfinder & Grantnet Paper • CPP August 2006

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to

- Inform the CPP of the strategic nature of the capacity building project described below
- Demonstrate shared resourcing and partnership working
- Encourage interest in and thus use of the Grantnet software
- Invite partners to contribute to the project

Background

Grantfinder and Grantnet are two internet based software packages designed to search and source up-to-date funding information. Argyll & Bute Council has a Grantfinder licence but would like to see the introduction of Grantnet across the area to allow individuals and organisations with access to the internet to undertake their own searches and thus build capacity within these individuals and organisations.

The Argyll & Bute Council Voluntary Sector Policy Working Group, which has representatives from both the Council and the voluntary sector, agreed that this project should be taken forward as a partnership project with costs of the project to be met by a contribution from the appropriate agencies, namely, Argyll CVS (or federation) and ABC and with discussion, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise (AIE) and others interested.

Detail

The Grantnet licence would enable community and voluntary groups, (and businesses) to directly access funding information, thus giving them more control over their fundraising. The information could be accessed from their home, from office computers, community centres libraries and access points. This would increase staff time for providing fundraising advice and support to new groups or dealing with more detailed enquiries. Time spent will also be invested in preparing and providing advice on capacity building initiatives.

As well as national grant schemes there is scope to enter localised funding information such as Argyll & Bute Council Grants and others such as WHELK Leader+ when available.

Assisting the voluntary and community sector in searching and sourcing funds is a function of three main agencies operating in Argyll & Bute; Argyll & Bute Council, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise and the Council for Voluntary Services (four individual CVS) but the benefits of this function in sourcing funding for projects benefits all agencies in the area. Argyll & Bute Council is the only organisation holding a Grantfinder licence and as such is conducting all Grantfinder searches on behalf of clients, from both direct enquiries and from signposted enquiries via Argyll CVS and AIE.

Cost	yr1	yr2	yr3
Grantnet annual licence =	£1,300	£1,300	£1,300
Grantfinder annual licence =	£2,400	£2,400	£2,400
one-off set up fee for branding =	£ 500		
Totals	£4,200	£3,700	£3,700

Total 3 year project costs are £11,600 and split equally between three agencies is £1,289 pa or £107 per month. This figure will of course change if more or fewer agencies make contributions.

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Options

Two other options have been considered, Funderfinder and Jobs4B. The former package is only available in situ and is infrequently updated. Jobs4B is Grantfinder's main rival and through discussion with other local authorities is not as up-to-date and is more expensive.

Risks

As the software is web-based and managed by Grantfinder there is no risk with the software. The only potential risk relates to the breakdown of infrastructure such as electricity and access to the user's server or hardware as per all computer based functions.

Training in the software can be provided by Grantfinder at a small fee but cascaded to community groups as required. Extensive telephone and email support is available from the Grantfinder Help Desk at no extra cost.

Timescales

Three years from October 2006 – October 2009 approx.

Way Forward

The project will be developed by Argyll & Bute Council's Corporate Funding Officer in partnership with interested agencies as reported and levels of contribution agreed. A full demonstration of Grantnet can be organised for CPP should they wish to see this software and raise any questions they may have.

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