

THIRD SECTOR GRANTS 2013/14

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details some of the implications of devolving decision making for the award of some Third Sector Grants to Council officers.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the award of Third Sector Grants up to a specified level being devolved to Community Development Officers is considered.
- 2.2 That, if Members are of the opinion that this is a worthwhile and feasible change in the existing process, that a report is submitted to all four Area Committees to ensure consistent practice.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Third Sector Grant applications are considered twice yearly in April and August. This is intended to avoid allocation of the full budget at one meeting and to enable activities held later in the year to be funded.
- 3.2 The total Third Sector Grant budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute and Cowal for 2013/14 is £35,000.
- 3.3 The Area Committee agreed to an upper limit of £4,000 to any one organisation in any one financial period, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 3.4 The Area Committee also agreed that a minimum of £5,000 should be carried forward for allocation at the Area Committee meeting in August.

4 Details

- 4.1 At the Area Committee meeting on 2nd April 2013, Cllr Breslin proposed that the Committee consider the implications of devolving decision-making of smaller grants to Council officers, to save time discussing each grant application at length.

4.2 Issues that require to be addressed include:

4.2.1 A maximum amount that can be awarded by an officer to any one group

4.2.2 Officers would require to make decisions at the two identified times in the year to fit with the closing dates for applications.

4.2.3 Would awards made by officers require ratification twice per year by Area Committee?

4.2.4 In a case where an officer may at present recommend no award is made, would Members wish to ratify such decisions?

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Policy: None

4.2 Financial: As per area budget allocation.

4.3 Legal: None

5.4 HR: None

4.5 Equalities Consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.

4.6 Risk: Monitoring of the process will minimise any risk to the Council

4.7 Customer Service: None

Margaret Fyfe
Community Development Manager

4 June 2013

For further information contact: Liz Marion, Community Development Officer for Bute and Cowal. Tel No 01369 707166.