

THIRD SECTOR GRANTS 2014/15

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details recommendations for the award of Third Sector Grants (including Events and Festivals) to Third Sector organisations for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islands
- 1.2 Applications are considered twice yearly in April and August. This is intended to avoid allocation of the full budget at one meeting and enable activities held later in the year to be funded.
- 1.3 The total Third Sector Grant budget made available by the Council for allocation in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islands for 2014/15 is £35,000 of which £27,805 has been allocated leaving a balance of £4,818 available for allocation at this meeting.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Three applications have been received, none of which are for Events and Festivals. One application was ineligible but will receive further support from the community development team.
- 1.6 Further to a request from Members, a report on use of unspent funds is attached.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the process whereby unspent funds are used, and how this operated in 2013/14. See Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Members are asked to agree that monitoring reports will be brought to the Area Committee annually in August each year.
- 2.3 The 2 organisations listed below are awarded funding from the Third Sector Grants budget.
- 2.4 Where possible, and if appropriate, new applicants should receive all or most of the amount requested (up to 50% total project costs), unless a very large amount of funding is sought.
- 2.5 Grants will only be awarded pending receipt of the correct paperwork; an approved financial check; and an End of Project monitoring report (if a grant was awarded in previous year).

Ref No	Organisation	Grant 12/13	Grant 13/14	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Recommendation 2014
1	The Templar Arts and Leisure Centre Trust	£0	£0	£7,098	£2,800	£2,000
2	Tayinloan Youth Club	£0	£0	£7,829	£3,914	£2,818
		Total Recommended				£4,818
		Balance				£0

3.0 DETAIL

Ref No	Organisation	Rationale for grant allocation
3.1	The Templar Arts and Leisure Centre Trust	The group are planning to extend the creative crafts work they do, aiming to increase the number of older people accessing the digital textile project and have provided outreach workshops in the community. This project builds upon work the group is already doing. Funds will support tutor fees, start-up equipment costs (including digital embroidery machine), cleaning costs, and marketing for textile course.
3.2	Tayinloan Youth Club	This youth club is a first time applicant to the Third Sector Grants, providing a range of activities for 6–18yr olds. The funds will contribute towards costs of Weekly youth club sessions – staff, hall hire, running costs, provision of activities. They have an awareness of other funders who will be targeted in future.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 All organisations have been contacted and applications assessed.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: None
- 5.2 Financial: As per area budget allocation.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities Consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.
- 5.6 Risk: Monitoring of the process will minimise any risk to the Council
- 5.7 Customer Service: None

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Third Sector Grants use of unspent funds.

Margaret Fyfe, Community Development Manager, 28 July 2014

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APPENDIX 1

Third Sector Grant Funding – use of unspent funds

Grant applications go to Committee twice a year: April and August. The closing date for receipt of application forms for a decision in April is 3 February 2014 and for August is 16 June 2014.

Successful applicants sign a contract detailing the funding awarded and are requested to complete an end of project monitoring report (EPMR) within three months of the end of the project/activity. For projects finishing at the end of March the monitoring report is required by the end of June 2015.

Previously reports have been brought to the June area committee but, as many groups have not yet submitted the monitoring report, there is often insufficient information to give a clear picture of spend and impact of spend. It is therefore proposed that in future monitoring reports are brought to area committees in August.

The Council will fund up to a maximum of 50% of total cost of project. (Maximum award, unless exceptional circumstances, is £4,000) Applicants should be able to demonstrate their own fund-raising and income generation activity or evidence a financial contribution towards the delivery of the project/activity.

The contract stipulates that all funds should be spent in the current financial period and unspent funds returned. Organisations are asked to contact the CDO immediately if there are any difficulties in respect of fulfilling the terms of the contract.

Unless an organisation contacts the Council to advise there is an issue with spending or matching the funding award, any underspend is often not picked up until receipt of the EPMR. At this point the organisation is contacted by the CDO and asked to clarify the funding situation and, if funding is underspent, is requested to return the unspent funding to the Council.

If funding is not returned timeously it results in income coming back to the Council late in the year when it becomes an issue in terms of reallocation eg:

- Fairness/equality to all groups in terms of advertising openly
- Relatively small amounts of funding means not cost effective to do another funding round
- If funding returned later in the year it misses the committee cycle
- Organisations can only apply for funding for one project

Accordingly, as historically little funding has been unspent, any unused funds have been allocated for the benefit of the third sector as a whole. Thus:

1. If funding from the first round is returned prior to the closing date for the second round of funding, this amount can be added to the balance for allocation at the August Area Committee meeting.
2. If funding is returned after that date, the balance of returned funds is spent on support to all third sector organisations across Argyll and Bute. Last year a training course in Graphic Design was held in each area. In addition each of the Council's four community centres received support in terms of new furniture or equipment as per their requests.

Note: There has, on occasion, been a third round for allocation, but there is very little time to promote, receive applications, assess and take recommendations to the Area Committee for the December Area Committee. Also, after a committee decision in December, the group requires to sign and return the contract before funding is paid, and funds must be spent before end March. A third round has proved to be unsatisfactory in terms of staff resources as in many cases funding has to be returned as it cannot be spent in such a short timescale.

Returned funds 2012/13 and 2013/14

Area	2012/13	2013/14
H&L	£1,127	£1,540
OLI	£439.71	Nil
MAKI	Nil	£4,875
B&C	Nil	£80

Spend of returned funding in MAKI area 2013/14

Graphic Design Training (Total cost £2,000 approx £500 per area)		£500
Kintyre Community Centre	Wall Art	£320
	Floor Tiles Kintyre Link Club	£300
	Seating unit	£675
Lochgilphead Community Centre	6 Foldable Tables	£600
	Kitchen Equipment	£2,879
	Total	£5,274