
Report To:	Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	Date:	21 April, 2020
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/11/20/HS
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager	Contact No:	5459
Subject:	Covid-19 Community Funding		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report seeks Sub-Committee approval for the proposals to address and mitigate the risks arising from the Covid-19 emergency across a number of self-managed community centres and a number of recipients of Grants to Voluntary Organisations funding.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Ongoing consideration has been given to the loss of income which is now being experienced by many centres/organisations across the authority, during the current Covid-19 lockdown and the resulting financial impact which this is having on their monthly outgoings. The centres and organisations particularly affected are those which have fixed overheads or maintenance costs.
- 2.2 There are seven self-managed community centres that receive financial support from the Community Based Services funding stream as shown in Appendix 1. Three of these centres receive funding on a monthly basis with the remaining four receiving funding on a quarterly basis. All centres submit invoices monthly/quarterly in arrears. It is proposed to release a quarterly payment to all centres covering the period April to June whilst officers undertake a review of the financial position of all organisations prior to any further release of funding in 2020/21. This review would include the expectation that the Centres will apply to all other available funding sources which have been made available as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. A future report will be brought to the Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee once further details are known.
- 2.3 A number of bowling clubs have contacted the Council expressing concerns about the sustainability of their Club during Covid-19 due to the lack of income from annual membership fees and fixed overheads to keep the greens maintained. Where Clubs have a bar facility, there is further loss of income due to the current lockdown. Details of the bowling clubs and the level of GTVO support in 2019/20 are also listed in Appendix 1. Clubs will be expected to apply for other sources of funding including the Business Grants scheme, however not all will be eligible. Where funding cannot be accessed by another source, then it is recommended that the same level of GTVO support is given to the club as they received it last year. In order to help the clubs with cashflow, the intention would be to offer the grants to the clubs in early May, ahead of the GTVO process.
- 2.4 There are a number of organisations previously in receipt of funding from Grants to Voluntary Organisations where the funding is primarily used to support ongoing rental and utility costs. Like many other organisations, they are currently experiencing loss of income via membership fees and hall rentals however they still have the pressure of unavoidable fixed costs. Details of these organisations are listed in Appendix 1. If agreed by the Sub-Committee, the intention would be to treat these organisations in the same way as bowling clubs and where other funding sources are not available, to offer grants to these clubs at the same rate as last year but ahead of the usual GTVO process.

- 2.5 Officers are working very closely with the 3rd sector offering support during the current situation and the intention is to complete financial assessments as soon as possible.
- 2.6 All organisations have been forwarded information on various sources of funding which they may be eligible for to support their current gap in income. It is expected that all organisations will pursue these funding resources and not be solely reliant on grants from the Council.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee agrees that officers should release the April-June quarters payment to all self-managed Community Centres whilst officers review the financial information supplied by each of the centres and note that a further and more detailed report will be brought back to the Sub-Committee regarding future funding levels.
- 3.2 For the GTVO recipients outlined in Appendix 1, the recommendation is that officers support the organisations to optimise other funding available to support organisations through the Covid-19 crisis and, where required, approve GTVO support up to the same rate as last year and for this payment to be released prior to the main GTVO exercise on the condition that organisations will pursue these funding resources and not be solely reliant on grants from the Council.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director – Education,
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APPENDIX 1

Self-Managed Community Centres (funding via Community Based Services)

Craigend Resource Centre
Branchton Community Centre
Youth Connections
Broomhill Centre
Gibshill Community Centre
Kilmacolm Community Centre
Inverkip Hub

Bowling Clubs (funding via GTVO)

Ardgowan Club
Fort Matilda Bowling Club
Gourock Bowling Club
Gourock Park Bowling Club
Grosvenor Bowling Club
Hillend Bowling Club
Inverkip Bowling Club
Lady Alice Bowling Club
Parklea Bowling Club
Port Glasgow Bowling Club
Rankin Park Bowling Club
Victoria Bowling Club
Wellington Park Bowling Club

Other Organisations (funding via GTVO)

Auchmountain Glen
Wemyss Bay Community Association
Greenock & District Sea Cadets
Greenock & District Scout Council