
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	21 May 2024
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and OD	Report No:	EDUCOM/27/24/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Changes to Community Grants Fund		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval by the Education and Communities Committee to make changes to the criteria for the Community Grants Fund from 2024/25.
- 1.3 Minor changes to the fund are being made in response to decisions made as part of the Council's budget process for 2024/26, and in response to elected member feedback.
- 1.4 The changes being proposed do not affect the total amount of grant available.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
- notes the virement of £30,000 in respect of playschemes to contribute to the provision of free playschemes;
 - agrees that the current arrangements for other ringfencing arrangements should cease. However, the proposal is that the Committee instructs the Grants Sub-Committee to continue to give an annual grant to the Samaritans without application and that the officer recommendation for the amount for this grant takes into account the totality of the available funding and the impact that this has had on other applications;
 - agrees to the strengthening of the grant criteria for groups to ensure that a condition of grant is that recipients must not only be supporting the aims of the Council Plan but not be acting against the interests of the Council; and
 - notes that a further report will be considered by the Committee if further changes to the grants criteria are proposed by elected members.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 The Community Grants Fund considers grants under the following headings:

- facilities/core costs: running costs linked directly to the delivery of activities/services provided by the group/organisation (i.e. heating/lighting/rent);
- project costs: costs linked directly to a specific project being delivered by the groups / organisation (i.e. resources/uniforms/events); and
- fee waiver: support for organisations towards costs for the hire of Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Leisure premises

3.2 Each year, a number of commitments are made from the budget prior to the consideration of applications for that year. These include:

- £7,300 contribution to the Samaritans rent;
- £500 for rent for the Murdieston Dam Boat Club; and
- £30k contribution to the provision of summer playschemes.

3.3 Conditions of Grant are that:

- Group/organisation must be actively based and provide services in Inverclyde;
- If applying as a sports club, it is actively operating, training and playing in Inverclyde or setting up to do so;
- A non-profit group or a voluntary sports club which has an Under 19 section/ players;
- Must have Public Liability Insurance (where applicable);
- It must have a constitution, set of rules or Memorandum and Articles of Association which is dated and signed as 'adopted' by an office bearer on behalf of the group;
- It has a bank or building society account which requires at least two signatures on each cheque or withdrawal;
- The grant can be spent within one year of the date of our award letter; and
- The organisation is registered with Inverclyde Council as a community / voluntary organisation

3.4 In addition to the above conditions of grant, officers assess the extent that grant applications indicate that funding would be used to benefit the wider Inverclyde community. Additionally, it is a condition of grant that applications contribute to local priorities and that recipients consent to acknowledging the impact of the Council's Community Grant in publicity or marketing materials.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 As part of the Council's budget decision for 2024/26 it was agreed that summer playschemes would be fully funded by the Council. Part of the financial assumptions for this decision is that the £30k committed from the community grants fund is vired to Playschemes.

4.2 At a recent elected member workshop, a discussion took place regarding whether it is still appropriate for funding for the commercial rents for the Samaritans and Murdieston Dam Boat Club to be entirely ringfenced as part of consideration of the Community Grants Fund process. It is proposed that the current arrangements for ringfencing arrangements should cease. However, the proposal is that the Committee instructs the Grants Sub-Committee to continue to give an annual grant to the Samaritans without application and that the recommended amount for this grant takes into account the totality of the available funding and the impact that this has had on other applications. Officers will work with the Murdieston Dam Boat Club to support an application to the fund in 2024/25.

- 4.3 On rare occasions, grant recipients have been perceived as working against the aims of the Council and it is recommended that an additional condition of grant is included from 2024/25 onwards. This condition would be that a
'Group/organisation must not or be seen to be acting against the aims or priorities of Inverclyde Council'.
- 4.4 It was agreed at the recent elected member workshop that officers will continue to work with elected members to review and refine the criteria for awarding grants, taking into account the potential impact on different groups. bring back further proposals to reform the community grants fund qualifying criteria..

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	x	
Legal/Risk		x
Human Resources		x
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		x
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None

5.4 Human Resources

None

5.5 Strategic

Community Grants Funding assists groups and organisations contribute to the aims of the Council and Partnership Plans.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
x	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

N/A

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
x	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Elected member workshop took place on 16 April 2024.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None