

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS 1998/99

Report by the Chief Executive

ABSTRACT

This report makes recommendations on a number of grant aid requests from national organisations considered by COSLA to be partner organisations. These organisations are on the COSLA list of recommendations to individual authorities for subscriptions/financial contributions during the financial year 1998/99.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee agree to make the following financial contributions to COSLA National Partner Organisations:-

- (a) Family Mediation Scotland - £100;
- (b) Scottish Human Rights - £100;
- (c) Scottish Low Pay Unit - £2,200;
- (d) Scottish Youth Theatre - £200;
- (e) Royal Scottish National Orchestra - £300;
- (f) Erskine Hospital - £500; and
- (g) Scottish Ballet - £300
- (h) National Trust for Scotland - £200

2. BACKGROUND

Members will recall that they previously instructed Officers to bring forward reports to appropriate Committees on grant aid to bodies on the COSLA list of National Partner Organisations.

A number of these bodies are of a corporate nature, and therefore are being reported to the Policy and Resources Committee rather than a Service Committee.

The following organisations are on the COSLA list of partner organisations and therefore subject to their recommendations for funding from individual local authorities:-

- (a) Family Mediation Scotland - amount requested this year (£2,220) - amount awarded last year (£0) - amount recommended this year (£100);

- (b) Scottish Human Rights - amount requested this year (£1,067) - amount awarded last year (£30) - amount recommended this year (£100);
- (c) Scottish Low Pay Unit - amount requested this year (£3,608) - amount awarded last year (£2,200) - amount recommended this year (£2,200); and
- (d) Scottish Youth Theatre - amount requested this year (£1,332) - amount awarded last year (£200) - amount recommended this year (£200).

Members are advised that during times of very tight budgetary control, and cutbacks being implemented across all Council budget heads, the Corporate Grant Aid Officers Working Group have found it very difficult to meet the requests of these National Organisations. The Group have, however, tried to maintain a contribution of a level that had previously been committed by the Council to each organisation, whilst at the same time trying to ensure that Angus Council does go some way to meeting some of these requests from these national bodies.

In addition to the above, members will be aware that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities agreed to defer the inclusion of any of the five National Performing Art Companies into their list of recommendations.

An application has been received from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to a value of £7,936. On the basis that last year a contribution of £300 was made, the Corporate Grant Aid Group would recommend that a similar sum of £300 be awarded this financial year. An application for an unspecified sum has also been received from Scottish Ballet and again it is suggested that a contribution (the same as awarded last year) of £300 be made.

In addition to the above, Erskine Hospital have indicated that they are planning to build a new hospital for ex-servicemen at a cost of £22m (capital). The Corporate Grant Aid Group recommend that the Council make a one-off payment of £500 towards this initiative.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should the Council approve the grants suggested as set out in this Report then the total financial implication during the current year would be £3,700 which can be contained within the Corporate Grant Aid Budget within the Miscellaneous Services Section of the Council's Revenue Budget 1998/99.

4. CONSULTATIONS

The Directors of Finance, Education, Social Work, Recreation Services and Cultural Services have been consulted during the preparation of this Report.

WDS/BAK

8 October 1998

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information were relied upon to any material extent in preparing this report.