

ANGUS COUNCIL**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 10 FEBRUARY 1997****Corporate Grant Aid to the Voluntary/Community Sector (1997/98)****Report by the Chief Executive****ABSTRACT**

This report (1) advises members of decisions taken by the corporate officer grant-aid working group on applications up to £500, and (2) makes recommendations to the Council on applications for grant aid over £500.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:-

1. Agree to note the grant aid awards up to £500 in value made by the corporate grant aid officer group,
2. Approve the grant aid recommendations made in this report in respect of applications for funding of over £500, and
3. homologate the decision to award Angus Toy Appeal a grant of £925.

2. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Members will recall that on the 7 May 1996, the Policy & Resources Committee considered and approved Report No 317/96 which set out arrangements for how the Council might manage its grant aid arrangements. The issues agreed were:-

1. To proceed with the production and issue of an Angus Council grant aid booklet. This has now been completed.
2. To agree that all grant aid applications below a sum of £500 be dealt with either by the appropriate department at an officer level, or by a corporate officer group chaired by a member of the Chief Executive's Department.
3. To agree that any grant aid requests over the sum of £500 be the subject of quarterly submissions to appropriate committees of the Council.

3. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications below £500

The following approvals are for sums of below £500 and are submitted for information purposes.

Members are reminded that this list does not include service department grants, which are dealt with separately.

Organisation	Grant Aid Type	Amount Sought	Decision
BT/Voices for Hospices	C1	£495	£100 (one-off)
Wellbank Amenities Association	C2	£200	£200
Scottish Ballet	A	£450	£300
Letham Feuars Committee	C2	£357	Nil
Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link	A	£500	Nil
Royal Humane Society	A	£50	Nil
Scottish Conservation Project Trust	A	£300	Nil
Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Appeal	C2	Unspecified but estimated at below £500	Nil

Copies of these applications are available in the Members' Lounge.

Applications above £500

The following are applications for sums in excess of £500 and the Corporate Officer Working Group's recommendations are outlined in the table. The Council's views are sought.

Organisation	Grant Aid Type	Amount Sought	Recommendations
Architectural Heritage Society for Scotland	A	Unspecified	£30
Caledonian Community Association	C2	£1,763	£1,175
Scottish Gypsy Traveller Association	A	£2,006	£1,000
Scottish Council for Civil Liberties	A	£1,688	£30
Dementia Service Development Centre	A	£1,100	Nil
Scottish Refugee Council	A	£2,000	Nil
RSNO	A	£7,992	£300
Shopmobility Dundee	B7	£1,500	£200
Arbroath Abbey Theatre	B9	£5,000	Nil
Angus Homeless Action Group	C2	£34,480	Nil
Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland	C2	£3,000	Nil

Angus Toy Appeal applied for £2,000 to assist in providing toys for under privileged children at Christmas 1997. Following discussion with the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Policy and Resources Committee the Group were awarded a grant up to £1,000 on a match "pound for pound" basis. A grant of £925 was paid and the Committee are asked to homologate this decision.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision for corporate grant aid is contained within the miscellaneous services section of the Council's Revenue budget and the amounts approved or recommended for approval set out in this report can be contained within these sums.

5. CONSULTATIONS

The Directors of Law & Administration and Finance have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

27 January 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.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

'98 FEB -2 -9 108

29 January 1998

Your Ref:

To: Chief Executives

Our Ref: P/12/1

Dear Chief Executive

COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

I thought you might be interested in the exact terms of reference for the Commission and a detailed note about its membership.

Yours sincerely



Douglas Sinclair
Chief Executive

WHEN CALLING PLEASE ASK FOR: Douglas Sinclair (0131 474 9203) joan@cosla.demon.co.uk

Important: for reasons of Parliamentary privilege this paper is not for disclosure to anyone except its immediate recipient before noon on Friday 23 January.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE IN SCOTLAND

COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

1. The Commission on Local Government and the Scottish Parliament will:

- consider how to build the most effective relations between local government and the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive so that collectively they can best serve Scotland's people;
- consider how councils can best make themselves responsive and democratically accountable to the communities they serve; and
- report to the First Minister of the Scottish Parliament as soon as possible after his or her election. In addition, the Commission may choose, or be asked to submit, an interim report to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Commission's final report should be considered by the Scottish Parliament.

2. In carrying out the first of these tasks, the Commission may wish to pay particular attention to the development of a practical and procedural framework within which the Scottish Parliament and local government may work together on the development of policy and legislation. It may propose a concordat on relations between local government and the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive which may subsequently be considered and adopted by local government and the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive.

3. In carrying out the second of these tasks, the Commission may examine existing best practice in how councils make themselves responsive and democratically accountable to the communities they serve, including innovations introduced in councils' decentralisation schemes. The Commission may also wish to examine the role of the councillor (and how to attract a wide cross-section of the community to serve as councillors), to examine councils' political management structures (and alternative models such as directly-elected leadership and "cabinet" systems of political management), and to consider how electoral arrangements can best secure the democratic accountability of local government. The Commission may recommend changes to the law if it believes these are desirable.

4. In carrying out its tasks the Commission will have regard to the status of councils as the focus of elected leadership for the areas they serve. The Commission will consider whether different arrangements are appropriate to different parts of Scotland, in particular rural and islands communities. The Commission will also wish to be aware of the continuing development of policy and practice about local government's role and status, including the development of policy on local government finance; the development of policy on best value in council services; and the conclusions of the Scottish Office/COSLA working group on councils' relations with the wider public, private and voluntary sectors.

5. The membership of the Commission is:

Neil McIntosh CBE (Chairman): Chief Executive, Strathclyde Regional Council, 1992-96.
Currently Convener of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations.

Professor Alan Alexander: Professor of Local and Public Management, University of Strathclyde. Founding Director of the Scottish Local Authorities Management Centre.

Andrew Cubie: Senior partner, Fyfe Ireland WS. Past Chairman, CBI Scotland. Member of the Action Group on Standards in Scottish Schools. Member of the Court of Napier University. Chairman, Scotland's Health at Work, George Watson's College and the Executive Council of the RNLI in Scotland. Holder of various non-executive directorships.

Graham Leicester: Political consultant and Director of the Scottish Council Foundation. Former diplomat and adviser to the Constitution Unit, University College London.

Miss Eileen Mackay CB: Former Principal Finance Officer of The Scottish Office. Currently Chairman of the Secretary of State for Transport's Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment and a non-executive director of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, among a number of public, private and voluntary sector non-executive appointments.

Councillor Margaret Millar JP: Depute Convener, Fife Council. A councillor since 1983 and Provost of Dunfermline District Council from 1992-1996. Also a lecturer at Lauder College, a Director of Queen Margaret Hospital NHS Trust and a Director of Kingdom FM Radio Ltd.

Matt Smith JP: Scottish Secretary of UNISON. Treasurer of the STUC and a member of its General Council. Member of the Executive of the Scottish Council Development and Industry. Member of Church and Nation Committee of Church of Scotland. Member of Scottish Local Government Information Unit and Director of John Wheatley Centre. Former councillor.

Miss Maureen Watt: Scottish National Party's spokesperson on Consumer Affairs and Water. Served until recently as SNP Vice-Convener with responsibility for local government. Former Grampian Regional Councillor and currently Rector's Assessor at Aberdeen University, community council chairperson and school board member.