

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 11 June 2007

REPORT ON: Administrative Grants to Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures 2007–2008

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 257-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval for the payment of administrative grants for the financial year April 2007 to March 2008 to Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures in existence or established during the year, and to confirm the formulae for payment.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Administrative grants are awarded to all Community Councils currently in existence or established during 2007/2008 in accordance with the Council's Revised Scheme for the Operation of Community Councils (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Administrative grants are also awarded to other Neighbourhood Representative Structures which meet the eligibility criteria set out in Committee Report No. 725 – 2002 (see Appendix 1).
- 2.3 Grants are awarded according to the following formulae: a lump sum of £330 per Community Council/Neighbourhood Representative Structure plus 1.2p per resident in each area (see Appendices 1 and 2).
- 2.4 An administration grant of £440 is awarded to the Dundee Civic Forum the successor body to the Community Neighbourhood Representative Structures and the Association of Dundee Community Councils.
- 2.5 Community Councils or Neighbourhood Representative Structures established beyond 1 April 2007 will only be eligible for a grant for the part of the year from their inception.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Costs will be contained within the Department's Revenue Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund Budget for 2007 – 2008.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

By working in partnership with Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures, Dundee City Council will strive to develop Dundee in ways which will safeguard the future of the environment, our economy and communities.

4.2 **Strategic Environment Assessment**

None required.

4.3 **Anti-Poverty**

Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures are empowered to participate in decision-making.

Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures promote engagement in the political process and the representation of interests.

5.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

5.1 Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures encourage Dundee Citizens to participate in community life regardless of their race, colour, gender, sexuality, age, class, ethnic or religious beliefs, basic skills, disability, trade union activity or employment status.

6.0 **BACKGROUND**

6.1 This report details payments in the form of administration grants to Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, according to the Revised Scheme for the Operation of Community Councils and Committee Report No. 725 – 2002.

7.0 **ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARDS 2006 - 2007**

7.1 The formulae governing the award of administrative grants ensures that Community Councils/Neighbourhood Structures receive a basic lump sum of £330 plus an additional 1.2p per resident. To be eligible for a grant, Community Councils/Neighbourhood Representative Structures must first make formal application by submitting audited annual accounts for the period 2007/2008 where appropriate. To qualify for a grant award, the applicant body should have less than twice the amount of their recommended grant in their administrative account at 31 March 2007

7.2 The Revised Scheme for the Operation of Community Councils, makes provision for 19 Community Councils in Dundee. At present there are 5 Community Councils: Broughty Ferry, Fintry, City Centre and Harbour, West End, and Kingsway West Community Council.

7.3 It is possible that during the financial year 2007-2008 that the Whitfield Inclusion Network Group (WING) may apply for recognition as a Neighbourhood Representative Structure

7.4 The Dundee Civic Forum enables Community Councils and Neighbourhood Representative Structures to share information, develop training programmes and promote their development.

7.5 Community Councils/Neighbourhood Representative Structures established after 1 April 2007 will be awarded a grant proportionate to the number of months they are operational between 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

8.0 REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- 8.1 In November 2005, the Scottish Executive issued a discussion paper entitled "What can we do to help Community Councils fulfil their role". The paper was part of a process of gathering information to identify specific obstacles and examples of good practice, thus enabling evidence-based decisions on how Community Councils can become more effective in carrying out their functions.

The recommendations emerging from the review have been considered by the Ministers and the Scottish Executive will provide further advice on which proposals they intend to take forward.

These proposals are likely to have implications for Dundee City Council's Scheme For The Operation Of Community Councils.

- 8.2 In light of the above, the Communities Committee approved the following recommendations on 19 March 2006:
- Await further advice from the Scottish Executive on which proposals will be taken forward and the mechanism for doing so.
 - Schedule a review of Dundee City Council's Scheme For The Operation Of Community Councils in relation to 1.
 - Review the current Community Council boundaries to determine extent to which each Community Council area can be nested within the new multi-member electoral ward boundaries.
 - Delay the Community Council elections scheduled for October 2007 until April 2008 by which date the review of the Scheme For The Operation Of Community Councils will be complete.
 - Consult the Dundee Civic Forum on the intended plan of action and involve them in the review process.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services) and the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
26 APRIL 2007

COMMUNITY COUNCILS: PROPOSED BASIS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE GRANTS
1 APRIL 2007 – 31 MARCH 2008

No	Name	Population	Basic Sum (£)	1.2p Per Capita (£)	Grant (£)
1	Ancrum/Blackness	8056	330	97	427
2	Ardler/Blackshade	2786	330	33	363
3	Broughty Ferry	18439	330	221	551
4	Caird	2229	330	27	357
5	Charleston	4305	330	52	382
6	City Centre and Harbour	2727	330	33	363
7	Craigiebank and District	3379	330	41	371
8	Douglas and Angus and Craigie	8109	330	97	427
9	Downfield and Brackens	9582	330	115	445
10	Fintry	6658	330	80	410
11	Hilltown and District	10339	330	124	454
12	Kirkton	7771	330	93	423
13	Lochee	5931	330	71	401
14	Kingsway West Community Council	6433	330	77	407
15	Mid Craigie/Linlathen	4512	330	54	384
16	Rockwell/Fairmuir	7646	330	92	422
17	Stobswell and District	12445	330	149	479
18	West End	14565	330	175	505
19	Whitfield	6258	330	75	405
Dundee Civic Forum			440		440
Totals					8416

Populations based on the General Register Office (Scotland) 2005 mid-year estimates.

COMMUNITY COUNCILS: ADMINISTRATIVE GRANTS

1 APRIL 2007 TO 31 MARCH 2008

Community Council/Neighbourhood Representative Structure	Population	Basic Sum (£)	1.2p Per Capita (£)	Grant (£)
Broughty Ferry Community Council	18439	330	221	551
Fintry Community Council	6658	330	80	410
Kingsway West Community Council	6433	330	77	407
West End Community Council	14565	330	175	505
City Centre and Harbour Community Council	2727	330	33	363
Ardler Village Trust	2786	330	33	363
Stobswell Forum	12445	330	149	479
Kirkton Partnership	7771	330	93	423
Whitfield Inclusion Network Group	6258	330	75	405
Dundee Civic Forum (see Para 7.6)	-	440	-	440
Totals				4346

Community Councils	£2,236
Neighbourhood Representative Structures	£1,670
Dundee Civic Forum	£ 440
Total	£4,346