

THIRD SECTOR GRANTS 2014/15

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details recommendations for the award of Third Sector Grants (including Events and Festivals) to Third Sector organisations for Oban, Lorn and the Isles.
- 1.2 Applications are considered twice yearly in April and August. This is intended to avoid allocation of the full budget at one meeting and enable activities held later in the year to be funded.
- 1.3 The total Third Sector Grant budget made available by the Council for allocation in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for 2014/15 is £35,000, of which £32,700 has been allocated leaving a remaining balance of £2,300.
- 1.4 The Area Committee agreed to an upper limit of £4,000 to any one organisation in any one financial period, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 1.5 Two applications have been received, none of which are for Events and Festivals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The 2 organisations listed below are awarded funding from the Third Sector Grants budget.
- 2.2 Those organisations that have received funding for two years or more should not be awarded more than the amount they received in 2013/14 unless increased developmental aspects are detailed in the application.
- 2.3 Where possible, and if appropriate, new applicants should receive all or most of the amount requested (up to 50% total project costs), unless a very large amount of funding is sought.
- 2.4 Grants will only be awarded pending receipt of the correct paperwork; an approved financial check; and an End of Project monitoring form (if a grant was awarded in previous year).

Ref No	Organisation	Grant 12/13	Grant 13/14	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Recommendation
1	Oban Viewpoint Group	£0	£0	£13,570	£2,000	£2,000
2	New Start Oban	£0	£206 (returned)	600	£300	£300
Total Recommended						£2,300
Balance						£0

3. DETAIL

Ref No	Organisation	Rationale for grant allocation
3.1	Oban Viewpoint Group	This project is to establish the feasibility of a new build community centre in the Soroba area of Oban. The amount requested is part of a larger overall cost. However, the group have been working on the project for some time and it is recommended that an award be made on the condition that the group secures the remaining funding by 31 st . December 2014.
3.2	New Start Oban	This group provide starter packs for homeless individuals moving into permanent accommodation. This application is to support the provision of vacuum cleaners. This group received an award in 2013/14 but returned it since they did not require the funding.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 All organisations have been contacted and grant applications assessed.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: None
- 5.2 Financial: As per area budget allocation.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities Consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.
- 5.6 Risk: Monitoring of the process will minimise any risk to the Council
- 5.7 Customer Service: None

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Officer assessment reports submitted.

Margaret Fyfe, Community Development Manager

06 August 2014

For further information contact: Laura Macdonald, Community Development Officer for Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Tel No 01631 567944.

APPENDIX 1

Third Sector Grant Funding – use of unspent funds

Grant applications go to Committee twice a year: April and August. The closing date for receipt of application forms for a decision in April is 3 February 2014 and for August is 16 June 2014.

Successful applicants sign a contract detailing the funding awarded and are requested to complete an end of project monitoring report (EPMR) within three months of the end of the project/activity. For projects finishing at the end of March the monitoring report is required by the end of June 2015.

Previously reports have been brought to the June area committee but, as many groups have not yet submitted the monitoring report, there is often insufficient information to give a clear picture of spend and impact of spend. It is therefore proposed that in future monitoring reports are brought to area committees in August.

The Council will fund up to a maximum of 50% of total cost of project. (Maximum award, unless exceptional circumstances, is £4,000) Applicants should be able to demonstrate their own fund-raising and income generation activity or evidence a financial contribution towards the delivery of the project/activity.

The contract stipulates that all funds should be spent in the current financial period and unspent funds returned. Organisations are asked to contact the CDO immediately if there are any difficulties in respect of fulfilling the terms of the contract.

Unless an organisation contacts the Council to advise there is an issue with spending or matching the funding award, any underspend is often not picked up until receipt of the EPMR. At this point the organisation is contacted by the CDO and asked to clarify the funding situation and, if funding is underspent, is requested to return the unspent funding to the Council.

If funding is not returned timeously it results in income coming back to the Council late in the year when it becomes an issue in terms of reallocation eg:

- Fairness/equality to all groups in terms of advertising openly
- Relatively small amounts of funding means not cost effective to do another funding round
- If funding returned later in the year it misses the committee cycle
- Organisations can only apply for funding for one project

Accordingly, as historically little funding has been unspent, any unused funds have been allocated for the benefit of the third sector as a whole. Thus:

1. If funding from the first round is returned prior to the closing date for the second round of funding, this amount can be added to the balance for allocation at the August Area Committee meeting.

2. If funding is returned after that date, the balance of returned funds is spent on support to all third sector organisations across Argyll and Bute. Last year a training course in Graphic Design was held in each area. In addition each of the Council's four community centres received support in terms of new furniture or equipment as per their requests.

Note: There has, on occasion, been a third round for allocation, but there is very little time to promote, receive applications, assess and take recommendations to the Area Committee for the December Area Committee. Also, after a committee decision in December, the group requires to sign and return the contract before funding is paid, and funds must be spent before end March. A third round has proved to be unsatisfactory in terms of staff resources as in many cases funding has to be returned as it cannot be spent in such a short timescale.

Returned funds 2012/13 and 2013/14

Area	2012/13	2013/14
H&L	£1,127	£1,540
OLI	£439.71	Nil
MAKI	Nil	£4,875
B&C	Nil	£80