

# **GLENIFFER LOCAL PARTNERSHIP**

## **GRANTS WORKSHOP – 11 MAY 2021**

Outcome Note

---

### **Members Attending:**

Councillor McGurk (Chair); Councillor Burns; Provost Cameron; Councillor Devine; Councillor McCartin; J Duffy (Depute Chair); T Lawler; B Martin and Y Povah.

**Apology:** Councillor Montgomery.

### **Also Attending:**

R McGrath (Lead Officer); A Armstrong-Walter; D Pole; S Kraft, R Devine and A McNaughton (all Renfrewshire Council).

#### **1. Welcome & Introduction**

Councillor McGurk (Chair) thanked everyone for attending and intimated her hope that, through discussion at this workshop, clear criteria/considerations to apply to applications for local grant funding could be reached by consensus and make the grants process smoother, transparent, and accountable.

#### **2. Background and Key Considerations**

A Armstrong-Walter outlined the background to the current approach to awarding local grants via seven distinct and separate Local Partnerships each with their own budget and priorities for funding.

Each year, Community Planning invite applications from local groups and organisations operating in each Local Partnership area. Applications to each Local Partnership are then assessed against that Local Partnership's local priorities and a summary of each application is submitted to the appropriate Local Partnership for consideration of an award.

The budget available to each Partnership each year is allocated by the Council and the 2021/22 budget for Gleniffer LP was approximately £52,214. Local grant

application forms had been revised since last year making these more user-friendly and initial feedback had been positive. Assistance to complete application forms has been made available from Community Planning on request and applicants have been contacted to clarify information when necessary.

Application summaries include key facts about the project/costs and aligned proposed projects to one or more of the local priorities. These summaries also advise where applications do not meet any of the local priorities. Members could make an award or decline an application. Should an award be declined, the applicant will receive advice on other (external) funding sources that might be applicable.

Members will only receive a copy of all the application summaries received for 2021/22 when the agenda is published about 7 days before the Gleniffer Local Partnership meeting on 1 June 2021. No 2021/22 application summaries were provided to members at this workshop.

However, members were advised that 34 applications for grant funding had been received to date, from small local groups to larger voluntary organisations, requesting a total of approximately £125,000. Some groups delivering activities throughout Renfrewshire had made applications for grant funding to more than one Local Partnership and some groups had made multiple applications each for different projects.

### **3. Group Discussion – the way forward**

During discussion, members raised concerns about:

- the requirement to consider applications for local grant funding that did not meet any of Gleniffer LP local priorities;
- multi-area applications – where an applicant applied to more than one Local Partnership for funding towards the same project;
- applications from one group for very large awards (up to maximum of £10,000);
- multiple applications from one applicant - each for a different project requiring small amounts of funding, but the cumulative total award was high;
- applications for bus trips, food and drink, and employment costs;
- declined applications - the negative impact on individual Councillors and the Council. Negative press/social media attention;
- early officer/applicant dialogue to advise eligibility/signpost to other funding streams; and
- awards received last year and not yet spent.

Having heard the views of members on the matters under discussion and having taken advice from officers present on a range of matters, members noted:

- that to maintain transparency and accountability, they must consider every application received, regardless of eligibility, and make an award or decline to make an award;
- that applicants must align their project to one or more of the local priorities;

- that where applications did not align to local priorities or were ineligible for funding this would be highlighted in the application summary;
- that, in terms of previous funding not yet spent, information would be provided on application summaries where applicable;
- that applicants will be advised/signposted to other (internal and external) sources of funding where appropriate; and
- that the Council's conditions of grant permitted applications for funding to meet the cost of travel/transport/catering where these aligned with local priorities, such as reducing loneliness and social isolation
- that a note of the conclusions and the recommendations of members would be submitted to the next meeting of Gleniffer Local Partnership with a view to adopting the recommendations. It was hoped that all members, including those not present at the workshop, would support the recommendations.

Thereafter, members reached the following conclusions:

1. A cap on the amount of funding to be awarded to applications for local grants should be introduced by Gleniffer Local Partnership.
2. In principle, the cap should be set at £2,000. This would provide sufficient flexibility within the budget to offer awards to as many local groups as possible.
3. Multiple applications from one applicant should be permitted only if each application related to a different project.
4. Considering the potential introduction of a cap, applicants requesting a grant of more than £2,000 be advised to review/amend their application as soon as possible and prior to its consideration at the next Gleniffer Local Partnership meeting.
5. In principle, funding would not be provided to meet any element of employment costs.

#### **4. Recommendations**

Members were unanimous that the following recommendations should be submitted to the next meeting of Gleniffer Local Partnership for consideration:

1. A cap on the amount of funding to be awarded to each application for a local grant should be introduced by Gleniffer Local Partnership.
2. To provide sufficient flexibility within the budget and offer awards to as many local groups as possible, it was proposed that the cap be set at £2,000.
3. Multiple applications from one applicant should be permitted only if each application related to a different project.
4. In principle, funding should not be provided to meet any element of employment costs.