

6. WEST LOTHIAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS - PAYMENT OF ANNUAL GRANT

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services inviting consideration of the payment of the annual administration grant to the West Lothian Association of Community Councils for financial year 2011/2012.

The Head of Corporate Services explained that in the past the annual administration grant to the Association had been paid automatically upon receipt of satisfactory accounts, as attached to the report at Appendix 1, and that the level of administration grants for community councils and the Association had remained unchanged for several years.

However when the Council Executive considered the matter back in February 2012 it was decided to write to the West Lothian Association of Community Councils advising that due to the substantial balance of funds held by the Association the Council Executive was minded to refuse the £1,000 administration grant for 2011/2012 and instead transfer £1,000 to the Community Council Special Projects budget.

The Association subsequently responded to this position with the terms of their response detailed in the report advising that they would still wish to receive the full grant but if it had not been spent by the time they met for their AGM meeting in November they would return the annual allowance for 2011/2012 as a one-off basis.

Therefore it was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Approve the payment of £1,000 to the West Lothian Association of Community Councils for its administration grant for 2011/2012 or the transfer of the equivalent sum to the fund available for Community Council Special Project Grants; and
2. Consider whether applications by the Association for payment of its administration grant required to be brought to committee in future years, or may be dealt with through delegated powers and whether additional conditions for payment were to be imposed.

Decision

1. Agreed not to pay the £1,000 annual grant to West Lothian Association of Community Councils for 2011/2012 and that the money be transferred to the Community Council Special Project Grant budget for 2012/2013; and
2. Agreed that any future payments of the administration grant to West Lothian Association of Community Councils would require committee approval.