



**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**SPORTING GRANTS SCHEME**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update the Council Executive on proposed changes to the Sporting Grants Scheme.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves the following:

- The new Sporting Grants application form attached as appendix 1.
- Continuation of the grant scheme categories and the proposed award levels as included in appendix 2.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' need and making best use of our resources.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	None.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	Update of the scheme will have a positive impact on the indicators relating to the percentage of coach education participants who utilise their qualification volunteering within a community sports club and the number of accredited community sports clubs.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SOA 4 – Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.  SOA 6 – We live longer, healthier lives.  SOA 15 - Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Approved budget of £140,954 for financial year 2013/14.  Coordination of the scheme is resourced by the Sport and Outdoor Education Service.
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	Culture and Leisure PDSP on 11 April 2013 agreed to note the terms of the report and refer it to Council Executive for approval subject to consideration of a further increase to individual grant awards for athletes competing at national and international level.
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	Consultation has been carried out with Financial Management Unit and local sports clubs through a dedicated survey, the club network event and meetings with local sports clubs.

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Background**

The West Lothian Council Sporting Grants budget, administered by the Sport and Outdoor Education service, aims to support local sports clubs, athletes, volunteers and coaches to build their infrastructure and support their development through funding of various projects and individuals.

Grants are awarded under various categories including Coach Education, Club Development, Disabilities, Facilities and Individual Athlete Grants. All applications have a maximum award allocated to them based upon the type and level of support sought.

### **D2 Application Process**

Feedback from clubs at Club Network nights, specific surveys, one-to-one meetings and staff insight indicates that the impact of the Sporting Grants Scheme is not as far reaching as it could be.

In particular, survey feedback received has highlighted that almost 20% of clubs consulted found the existing application process to be a barrier especially the amount of paper work that needs to be completed for relatively low amounts of funding.

At present, five different application forms are used. One new application form, that will apply to all grant categories has now been produced and is included as appendix 1. The new form aims to simplify the application process by making the application criteria clearer and the form more user-friendly.

The application form contains more guidance on the level of supporting evidence required through the introduction of a tick sheet. This is designed to minimise the risk of an incomplete application which will reduce officer time spent chasing up such evidence.

At present clubs apply for grants during the year with deadlines for applications agreed as 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November. A panel chaired by a dedicated Sports Development Officer and attended by the Sport and Outdoor Education Manager, Sports Development Team Leader, Active Schools Coordinator and the Development Officer responsible for Club Development. Applications are reviewed

against the existing criteria and decisions are sent to the Executive Councillor for Culture and Leisure for review and final approval. No change to this part of the application process is recommended.

### **D3 Sporting Grants Scheme Categories**

West Lothian Council, on 29 January 2013, approved an 11% increase to the Sporting Grants budget to commence financial year 2013/14, following a temporary 10% increase in 2012/13. A further 1% increase will apply in financial year 2014/15.

In order to allocate the funds most appropriately the budget is split into the following headings and amounts. These amounts are recommended based upon the results of the consultation undertaken, anecdotal evidence from Officers and Sports Clubs and past experience of administration of the Sporting Grants scheme:

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>Allocation 2013/14 £</b>	<b>Allocation 2014/15 £</b>
Club Accreditation	3,000	3,030
Club Development	70,004	70,704
Coach Education	6,000	6,060
Facilities	50,000	50,500
Individuals	6,750	6,817
Scholarships	5,200	5,252
*Disability	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,954</b>	<b>142,363</b>

\*Disability grants are applied for through our Sporting Grants scheme but the funding is allocated from West Lothian Trust for People with a Disability and the interest available on the account.

### **D4 Sporting Grants Scheme 2012/13**

- Fourteen clubs were awarded amounts between £100 and £250 for achieving Club Accreditation.
- In 2012/2013 to date: Seven Club Development Grants have been awarded including a grant to aid the establishment of a new tennis club. The Club Development category also includes provision for local clubs to apply for partnership funding. This can include funding for Club Development posts on a fixed term basis. Such applications include joint funding, as part of an approved partnership agreement, with funding also being allocated by the relevant governing body of sport and the club itself. This approach has enabled club development posts to be developed in sports including rugby, cricket, handball, basketball, disability sport and swimming. The return on this form of investment is excellent. The two Club Development Officers, employed in partnership with the two local Rugby Clubs and the Scottish Rugby Union, for example, completed 616 school visits with a total of 9,311 participant sessions in 2012/13.

- The Coach Education grants supported thirty-one different coaches in gaining new qualifications.
- Eleven sports clubs have received assistance with facility development projects.
- Support was provided to six individual athletes to attend International level competitions including a basketball competition in Gothenburg.
- Twenty-six Athlete Scholarship Passes were approved for personal and coached training.

A full breakdown of the Sporting Grant categories is included as appendix 2. This document details the five categories of grant along with the recommended maximum level of award per category and per grant.

## **D5 Culture & Leisure PDSP**

This report was presented to the Culture & Leisure PDSP on 11 April. The PDSP considered the report and agreed to pass the recommendations to the Council Executive for approval. The PDSP also asked for further consideration of the award levels for Individual Grants based upon increased demand and activity in the lead up to, during, and after the 2014 Commonwealth Games for local athletes competing at national and international level. Officers suggested, therefore, that the maximum award for individual athletes competing at national level be increased to £300, and international level to £500. The grant category allocations have also been revised to accommodate this and are included in appendix 2. Grant allocations for 2012/13 have also been supplied to PDSP members as requested.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Changes to the application process for the Sporting Grants Scheme are recommended. These changes will allow the council to continue to support a variety of sports clubs in a range of different ways. The new scheme will offer larger amounts of funding which should allow clubs to have greater impact on the health and well-being of participants in West Lothian. Applications will take less time to complete, review and allocate and be easier for the customer to complete. The information will also be directly transferable into the performance monitoring as carried out by the Sport and Outdoor Education team.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Appendices/Attachments: Two

Appendix 1 Sporting Grant Scheme Application Draft

Appendix 2 Grants Summary Breakdown of categories and amounts

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Date of meeting: 23 April 2013