

11. GRASSROOTS PUBLIC ART GRANTS

The Council Executive considered a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Development and Regulatory Services and the Head of Cultural and Economic Development Services providing details of the Grassroots Public Art Grant scheme and seeking endorsement of the projects recommended for grants.

The Head of Development and Regulatory Services reported that the Grassroots Public Art Grants scheme comprised £44,000 from the council's Public Art Fund, which was generated through developer contributions, £50,000 awarded from the National Lottery administered through the Scottish Arts Council, and £5,000 from West Lothian on the Move. Applications had been invited for grants in the range of £10,000 - £24,000 from the whole of the West Lothian community.

The report went on to advise that applicants had been assessed by the Public Art Strategy Group and, of the nine applications which reached the second stage, four had been identified as meeting the criteria of the project and therefore worthy of support with grants of between £20,000 and £24,000 each. The applications which were recommended for the grants were those which best met the assessment criteria of quality and creativity of concept, lasting benefit to the community, demonstration of the applicant's commitment and ability to realise the project and the potential to enhance health and well-being. The recommended schemes would result in a geographical spread of projects across west Lothian and complied with the strategy and supplementary planning guidance which required that funds from developers should be used in the communities affected the developments generating the contributions.

The applications recommended for grants were summarised as follows:-

The Sunny Dale Association for an art based garden at Mayfield Community House, Armadale.	£24,000
Shale People Project of artworks in Broxburn Town Centre	£24,000
A project for Dedridge Burn Plantation by members of DEEP	£21,600
Boghall Drop in Centre, Bathgate	£20,700

A list of all applications considered in the second stage assessment was included in Appendix 1 to the report.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:-

1. approves the allocation of £44,000 from the council's Public Art Fund to the Grassroots Public Art Grant scheme; and

2. approves the four schemes recommended as recipients of grants under the Grassroots scheme with a subsequent paper to follow in due course reviewing the scheme within a wider report on the progress of public art in West Lothian.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.