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**Report To:** Education & Communities Committee    **Date:** 7 March 2017

**Report By:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development    **Report** EDUCOM/31/17/MM

**Contact Officer:** Martin McNab    **Contact No:** 4246

**Subject:** Grants to Voluntary Organisations Update

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of proposals to target the additional GTVO funding agreed in the 2017-18 budget towards Community Asset Transfers while still providing a potential avenue for support for more general voluntary organisations in 17/18.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the additional £150K made available from reserves for Grants to Voluntary Organisations in 2017-18. This will be available to support any local organisations seeking support to build a business case or to increase their capacity to enable them to exercise their rights of community transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 2.2 In addition to supporting these specific aims, the increased funding will mean that there remains a more general avenue for support to voluntary organisations in the course of 2017-18. This will be particularly helpful with the bulk of the existing GTVO budget being committed early in 2017-18.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the additional funding for GTVO and the intention to target assistance towards organisations seeking community asset transfers.

**Martin McNab,**  
**Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will be aware that the meeting of Inverclyde Council on 16 February approved an additional £150K from reserves for Grants to Voluntary Organisations in the course of 2017-18. Members will also recall the decision of the January 2017 meeting of this Committee to extend the previous three year funding arrangements for organisations for an additional year pending longer term budget decisions. This committed £200K of the available budget for 2017-18 leaving £92K available for new funding applications.
- 4.2 The bulk of the remaining available budget for 17-18 is likely to be committed in March 2017 therefore the additional funds will be of assistance in supporting needs which may arise for local organisations as the year progresses.
- 4.3 Of the many possible emerging needs, the capacity of local organisations to participate fully in any asset transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is currently doubtful. The additional funds could be helpful to any organisation seeking such a transfer in providing assistance in developing a business case or feasibility study.
- 4.4 The funding could also be helpful in assisting in any organisational development which might be required to develop the capacity for a community transfer. There are very strict requirements in the legislation in relation to organisations which may apply for a community asset transfer and, at present, it is very doubtful if there are many suitable candidate bodies in Inverclyde. To request an asset transfer the requesting body must be a Company, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation or a Community Benefit Society. In all cases there are specific requirements around constitutions and assets at wind up and all three must have a minimum of 20 members. To bring local organisations to the level required might require assistance with legal fees, training, recruitment and development which could be funded from GTVO.
- 4.5 CLD will undertake engagement with Community Groups who might be interested in Asset Transfer to ensure they are aware of the support available.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

#### 5.1 Financial Implications:

Any support made available to organisations via the GTVO fund will be contained within the limits of the budget.

#### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

#### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

## Legal

5.2 None

## Human Resources

5.3 None

## Equalities

5.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

YES (see attached appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## Repopulation

5.5 None.

## 6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report and as such the Chief Financial Officer has not been consulted.

6.2 There are no direct staffing implications in respect of the report and as such the Head of Organisational Development, HR and Communications has not been consulted.

6.3 There are no legal issues arising from the content of this report and as such the Head of Legal and Property Services has not been consulted.

## 7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2017-18 Education & Communities Committee January 2017. **EDUCOM/16/17/HS**