

REPORT TO: Cabinet

MEETING DATE: 10 March 2015

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Investing in our Communities – Support to Community Councils

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to secure Cabinet support for proposed levels of funding to be made available to community councils in East Lothian for the financial year 2015/16.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the allocation of Community Council Administration Grants and Local Priorities Scheme Budgets for 2015/16, as detailed in Appendices 1 & 2.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the funding of public liability insurance for community resilience purposes, as mentioned in 3.4 below.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Community Council Funding

Community councils continue to play a vitally important role in East Lothian community life providing valuable support and effective influence within the communities they represent. The council has a positive and effective working relationship across our network of 20 community councils. The council's working partnership with community councils can be seen as both empowering and mutually beneficial and despite the very challenging financial circumstances posed by public sector spending constraints, the council is keen to maintain funding support at the maximum possible levels.

It is proposed that the longstanding financial assistance provided in respect of Administration Grants and the Local Priorities Scheme should continue. However, in order to balance budgets within Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services, it has been necessary to

reduce the pro rata amount of funding available to the Local Priorities Scheme to assist with meeting the savings to be found within Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services.

3.2 Administration Grants

Community councils receive a basic grant allocation for administrative support services. This allocation comprises a fixed sum element, supplemented by a per capita sum reflecting the size of the electorate. Provision is also made to include a small administration grant to support the Association of East Lothian Community Councils. Precise details of the proposed allocations for each community council amounting to **£14,050** for financial year 2015/16 are contained within Appendix 1.

3.3 Local Priorities Scheme (LPS)

The success of our Local Priorities Scheme has long been recognised nationally as leading practice and remains one of the most successful aspects of the council's partnership with local communities. It provides the local communities with financial resource to support their own locally determined priorities. This funding is enhanced by grants awarded to some community councils through Sport, Countryside and Leisure's Civic Pride Fund, Economic Development, Leader and local fundraising, which support mutually beneficial projects.

As with the administration grant, allocations are made to individual community councils taking into account the size of the electorate in each area. Full details of the proposed allocations for financial year 2015/16 totalling **£116,000** are given in Appendix 2.

3.4 Community Resilience

As a result of the very successful Community Resilience Workshop, held last year, it is proposed that financial assistance should be made available to community councils, in order to facilitate local community resilience arrangements. This will be by way of payment of public liability insurance for all 20 community councils. The cost will be £2,740, which it is proposed will be met from the Community Partnership budget.

4 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 All of the proposals contained within this report reflect continued application of council policy as determined by both the Council Plan and Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement. The proposals continue to demonstrate effective partnership working between the council and East Lothian community councils.

5 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – the detailed financial implications have been assessed in conjunction with relevant colleagues in the Finance Team. The specific funding allocations, made in recommendations 2.1, can be contained within the approved 2015/16 budget for Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services. The financial implications mentioned in 3.4 can be contained within the approved budget for Community Partnerships.
- 6.2 Personnel – Significant support and advice is provided to community councils by the Democratic Services Officer, whose post is already part of the approved staffing establishment. This support and its delivery will be subject to review in the near future.
- 6.3 Other – additional support and advice is provided to many community councils by officers in service areas throughout the council from within existing resources.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Access to further supporting information can be made available to elected members on request.

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COMMUNITY COUNCILS - LOCAL PRIORITIES SCHEME - INCLUDING XMAS LIGHTS ALLOCATION													
BUDGET 2015/16													
											PER ELECTOR		
											FIXED	PRO	TOTAL
BUDGET CODE						COMMUNITY COUNCIL	ELECTORATE	FIXED	PRO	TOTAL	FIXED	PRO	TOTAL
								SUM	RATA	SUM	SUM	RATA	SUM
								£	£	£	£	£	£
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5137						COCKENZIE & PORT SETON	4,279	1,500	5,060	6,560	0.35	1.18	1.53
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5138						DUNBAR	6,273	1,750	7,420	9,170	0.28	1.18	1.46
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5139						DUNPENDER	2,348	1,000	2,780	3,780	0.43	1.18	1.61
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5140						EAST LAMMERMUIR	1,049	1,000	1,240	2,240	0.95	1.18	2.14
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5141						GARVALD & MORHAM	383	500	450	950	1.31	1.18	2.48
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5142						GIFFORD	913	750	1,080	1,830	0.82	1.18	2.00
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5143						GULLANE	4,105	1,500	4,850	6,350	0.37	1.18	1.55
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5144						HADDINGTON	7,822	2,000	9,250	11,250	0.26	1.18	1.44
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5145						HUMBIE & SALTOUN	898	750	1,060	1,810	0.84	1.18	2.02
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5146						LONGNIDDRY	2,344	1,000	2,770	3,770	0.43	1.18	1.61
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5147						MACMERRY & GLADSMUIR	1,241	1,000	1,470	2,470	0.81	1.18	1.99
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5148						MUSSELBURGH	15,415	2,500	18,220	20,720	0.16	1.18	1.34
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5149						NORTH BERWICK	5,401	1,500	6,390	7,890	0.28	1.18	1.46
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5150						ORMISTON	1,715	1,000	2,030	3,030	0.58	1.18	1.77
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5151						PENCAITLAND	1,669	1,000	1,970	2,970	0.60	1.18	1.78
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5152						PRESTONPANS	7,280	2,000	8,610	10,610	0.27	1.18	1.46
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5153						TRANENT & ELPHINSTONE	9,364	2,250	11,070	13,320	0.24	1.18	1.42
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5154						WALLYFORD	2,268	1,000	2,680	3,680	0.44	1.18	1.62
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5155						WEST BARNES	532	750	630	1,380	1.41	1.18	2.59
1 - 05 - 150 - 2 - 25 - 245 - 5156						WHITECRAIG	1,031	1,000	1,220	2,220	0.97	1.18	2.15
							76,330	25,750	90,250	116,000	0.34	1.18	1.52
								25,750	90,250	116,000			