

Grants to Planning related Organisations 2005-2006

Planning Committee 21 April 2005

1 Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is twofold:

- To advise Committee on the allocation of grants with a value less than £10,000, under the Scheme of Delegation, to a range of planning-related organisations in light of the revenue budget provision for the financial year 2005-2006, and
- To report back to committee on the activities of the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, the Water of Leith Trust and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

2 Summary

2.1 This report details the decisions made under the Scheme of Delegation regarding the distribution of grants to a range of voluntary planning-related organisations whose work benefits the delivery of statutory planning services of the Council. It also contains the Reporting Officers report on the activities of the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, the Water of Leith Trust and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

3 Main Report

3.1 Provision is made within the Revenue Budget for the funding of organisations whose work implements Council policies, or complements the statutory services delivered by the Council. The benefits derived from this financial support include:

- Enhancement of the built and natural environment of Edinburgh;
- Service delivery in partnership with the voluntary sector;

- Assistance to specialist groups and the wider community in engaging in the planning process;
- Access to information, training and events to support members and officers.

3.2 The award of larger grants, with a total value over £10,000, to planning related organisations was included in a report to the Council's Executive in March 2005. This report covered awards to the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust.

3.3 Water of Leith Conservation Trust is also supported by other departments of the Council (Culture and Leisure and Environmental and Consumer Services), and their total grant exceeds £10,000 in value.

3.4 The allocation of small grants totalling under £10,000 (formerly £5,000) is delegated to the Director of City Development under the Scheme of Delegation.

3.5 The small awards to planning-related organisations are all given on an annual basis. Last year (2004-05), one of the grant-receiving bodies (the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Scotland) did not submit an application for an award. Again, no application has been received this year, and it is considered appropriate that funds should not be set aside in future years for this organisation.

3.6 An additional award was given in 2004-05 to the Edinburgh Access Panel to cover secretarial expenses, postage and stationery etc. as Council funding received in 2000 had been exhausted. The work of the Edinburgh Access Panel focuses on reviewing access issues in planning applications and building warrants, and in undertaking access audits to improve disabled people's access to the built environment. The Edinburgh Access Panel has not applied for a grant this year, but may wish to do so in future years.

3.7 It is suggested that, in future, funding for the Edinburgh Access Panel should not be included within the grant-awarding stream, but that arrangements similar to those agreed for the Edinburgh Civic Forum should be set in place; namely that the Council agree to meet the cost of a certain number of meetings annually. The sharing of costs with the Equalities Section in the Department of Corporate Services should also be explored.

3.8 New arrangements for grant payments are being put in place for April 2005, and all voluntary organisations will be paid by the BACS transfer system directly to nominated bank accounts.

Grants allocations for 2004-05 and 2005-06

3.9 Ten organisations were supported by Committee in 2004-05, although grant allocations were made for eleven organisations (see 3.5 above). Grant allocations are shown in the tables below.

3.10 It is proposed that grants under £10,000 for 2005-06 are increased individually to take up the surplus due to the lack of requests this year from the Edinburgh Access Panel and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (Scotland) - a total of £630. This would lead to allocations as shown in the table below:

Grants with a value over £10,000 in total

Organisation	Grant allocation 2004-05	Grant allocation agreed at Council Executive March 2005
Edinburgh World Heritage Trust	£116,746	£116,746
Edinburgh Green Belt Trust	£ 26,110	£ 26,110
Water of Leith Conservation Trust	£ 8,500	£ 8,500
Total	£151,356	£151,356

Grants with a total value under £10,000

Organisation	Grant allocation 2004-05	Grant requested 2005-06	Proposed Grant allocation 2005-06
Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland	£ 300	£1,000	£500
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	£ 230 (unclaimed)	£0	£0
The Council for Scottish Archaeology	£ 230	£ 427	£400
Edinburgh Access Panel	£ 400	£0	£0
Lothian Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	£1,000	£1,200	£1,100
National Trust for Scotland	£2,595	£3,000	£2,750
Planning Aid for Scotland	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000
Scottish Civic Trust	£1,810	£1,810	£1,810
Sum of all Grants under £10,00 in total	£9,565	£10,437	£9,560
Total of all Grants inc those totalling over £10,000	£160,921		£160,916

- 3.11 There is no guarantee that such funding levels will be maintained in future years.
- 3.12 Planning Aid for Scotland has stated that they would prefer their grant to be index-linked to increase annually, but it is felt that, in the current financial circumstances, it is not possible to agree to this.

Reporting Officers report

The Edinburgh Green Belt Trust

- 3.13 The EGBT is funded by a range of organisations, private companies and individuals. In 2003-2004, CEC provided the EGBT with both capital and revenue funding to the level of £30,000 and £25,870 respectively. Significant contributions were also received for operational income from SNH (£92,440) and Midlothian Council (£3,000), Scottish and Newcastle plc (£3,000), Tarmac Northern Ltd. (£30,000); and for project work from Midlothian Council (£7,000), Ratho Environment Group (£12,690), Forestry Commission (£9,760), Greenspace Scotland (£67,628), Esk Valley Trust (£22,784), Forward Scotland (£49,492).
- 3.14 The Trust has worked on a number of projects in and around Edinburgh which are listed in Appendix 1. The projects range from the creation of wildlife pools to path and bridge work at Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park. In addition, the Trust provided the opportunity for local communities to become involved in the projects through workshops, open days and a range of awareness raising exercises.

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust

- 3.15 In 2003-2004, the WoLCT received a grant from CEC of £25,000. This came from three departments, City Development, Environmental and consumer Services and Culture and Leisure. City Development provided £8,500 of this. Other significant income came from SNH (£8,000), the Robertson Trust (£8,000), Edinburgh Environmental Partnership (£10,000).
- 3.16 The principal objectives of the Trust are to protect and enhance the environment in the Water of Leith Area and provide recreation and education within that area. The visitor centre continues to be an attraction and community resource, maintaining a high standard of interpretation and a public events programme. A Quality Lifelong Learning Service for all ages attracts school and community groups, provides an outreach schools programme and an external talks programme. Wildlife surveys and river patrols maintain a wildlife sightings database and contribute towards the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan commitments. The Trust provides a focus for community and volunteer participation with a total of 10 cleanups, 600 volunteer hours and 12 other practical activities by corporate groups. The trust publishes its newsletter "Under the Bridge" 3 times per year and is currently working on a new Walkway Guide.

The Edinburgh World Heritage Trust

- 3.17 2003-04 saw considerable changes within the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust as the recommendations flowing from the review of the organisation were carried through following receipt of the final report, *Edinburgh World Heritage Trust – Maximising its Potential*, in May 2003. A new Board was appointed which took over the management of the Trust in January 2004. One of its first priorities was to take on the preparation of a Management Plan for the World Heritage Site. By the end of 2003-04 this was progressing well towards a draft for consultation.
- 3.18 Against a background of change, the Trust continued to make a positive impact on the World Heritage Site through the dispersal of building repair grants. The largest of these helped fund repairs in Palmerston Place although the final payment for Royal Mile Mansions, the largest grant ever given out by EWHT, fell within this financial year. Over the course of the year 41 grants totalling £1,501,610 were given out. The top ten largest grants for 2003-04 were as follows:
- 30 - 34 Palmerston Place (£407,364)
 - 100 - 104 Frederick Street (£363,361)
 - 7 Lennox Street (£139,441)
 - Royal Mile Mansions (£120,000)
 - 21 St John Street. (£97,571)
 - 5 - 7a Frederick Street (£79,339)
 - 14 – 16 Carlton Street (£71,883)
 - 11 – 12 Grosvenor Crescent (£54,189)
 - 1 – 3a Broughton Place/81 – 87 Broughton Street (£28,236)
 - Netherbow Port (£16,909)
- 3.19 During 2003-04, EWHT also produced the first Monitoring Report for the Site. This document gives a 'snapshot' of the state of conservation over the Site and will have greater significance in future years as subsequent reports are produced and comparisons drawn.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposed distribution of funds can be met from the revenue budget for 2005 - 06.

5 Conclusions

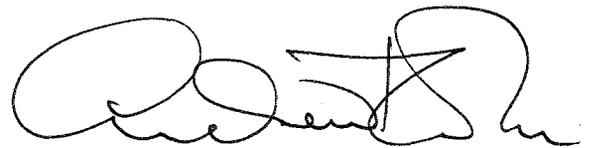
- 5.1 Grant allocations for 2005-06 have been adjusted to have regard to the availability of funds and the magnitude of requests made for these funds.

5.2 The Reporting Officers reports on the activities of the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, the Water of Leith Trust and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust show that these organisations continue to focus on environmental enhancements that implement Council policies and, in doing so, complements the statutory planning service delivered by the Council.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. notes the proposed payments of grants for 2005-2006 to the organisations listed;
- b. notes that the Director of City Development will disburse any remaining funds in a comparable manner.
- c. Notes the continued valuable work carried out by the three major recipients of grant: the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, the Water of Leith Trust and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.



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B. 4. 05

Appendices	App 1: Edinburgh Green Belt Trust Project Programme
Contact/tel	Mary Clarke 529 3514 John Inman 469 3721
Wards affected	All
Background Papers	None

THE EDINBURGH GREEN BELT TRUST
PROJECT PROGRAMME 2003-2004

File: P\Proj Prog 2003-04 (31 May 2004)

Project	Ref.	Location	Description	Project Value £	Progress as at 31 May 2004	Strategy
Community						
Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park	362	City of Edinburgh	Development of community park, path works, bridges etc	41,442	Complete	1,4,9,13,17
Community Events		City of Edinburgh	TreeFest, Hopetoun House	1,000	Complete	9
Green Belt & Countryside Awareness	353	Various	Access to Green Belt and countryside awareness	5,527	Complete	1,4,9,12,17
Harmeny School - Phase 3	356	City of Edinburgh	Access improvements, viewpoint & associated landscaping	4,468	Complete	1,9,15
Dalmeny Primary School	352	City of Edinburgh	Butterfly fence along boundary - 140m	4,577	Complete	1,9,15
Environmental Workshops	351	Various	10 environmental workshops	4,932	Complete	8,9,12
Burghlee Park	359	Midlothian	Development of "Circle of Life" community project	8,179	Complete	3,9,17
Brunstane / Newhailes PA	358	East Lothian	Participatory appraisal with local community re Biodiversity area	5,962	Complete	8,9,17
Dalmeny Village - Phase 2	343	City of Edinburgh	Village gateway improvements - Wester Dalmeny	1,724	Complete	1,10,12
Loanhead Greenspace Awareness	360	Midlothian	Community events to be held to raise Greenspace awareness	1,812	Complete	8,9,17
				79,623	Sub total	
Access						
Curriehill Path network	342	City of Edinburgh	Access creation within Dolphin Park	8,014	Complete	4,8,9
Ratho Wildlife area	361	City of Edinburgh	Creation of wildlife area and access improvements	11,843	Complete	4,8,9
Loanhead Farm	354	Midlothian	Access improvements to start of path	1,466	Complete	6,8
Craigie Hill Quarry	355	City of Edinburgh	Access improvements and woodland management	84,491	Practical completion	4,8,9,14
Newbattle Community Access	364	Midlothian	Access improvements between Newbattle & surrounding area	44,103	Complete	6,9
				149,917	Sub total	
Farm Initiative						
Damhead Holdings	357	Midlothian	Construction of wildlife pond	3,323	Complete	3
Bankhead Farm	367	City of Edinburgh	Hedging	3,222	Complete	1,15
Addiston Woodland	365	City of Edinburgh	Copse planting	2,404	Complete	1,15
West Craigie Farm	366	City of Edinburgh	Hedge establishment - 162m	1,316	Complete	
				10,265	Sub total	
Golf Initiatives						
Mortonhall / Braid Hills Phase 2		City of Edinburgh	Boundary wall restoration	3,160	Practical completion	16
				3,160	Sub total	
2003/04 Total				242,965	TOTAL	

Delayed projects from previous year's programme

2001/02 Project Programme	305	Midlothian	Loanhead-Roslin Cycleway Construction of cycleway Phase 2 - Loanhead station to cemetery	98,000	Complete	6, 8
2002/03 Project Programme	340	East Lothian	Birsley Brae Woodland (Phase 3) Woodland management with local group	13,700	Complete	6, 8
	342	City of Edinburgh	Curriehill Paths Path works at King George V Park and education area at School	18,576	Complete	
	304	City of Edinburgh	Mortonhall Pond Creation of wildlife pool	5,744	Complete	1

THE EDINBURGH GREEN BELT TRUST
PROJECT PROGRAMME 2003-2004

Strategies

In addition, the projects meet the objectives of each areas Local Plan & Lothians Structure Plan

- 1 Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan
- 2 East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan
- 3 Midlothian Biodiversity Action Plan
- 4 City of Edinburgh Council Access Strategy
- 5 East Lothian Access Strategy
- 6 Midlothian Access Strategy
- 7 A Sustainable Path Network for East Lothian
- 8 *Enjoying the Outdoors - A Programme of Action (SNH 1994)*
- 9 Working with Communities - The natural heritage in rural development
- 10 Natural Heritage in & around Settlements - A framework for action
- 11 Agriculture and Scotland's Natural Heritage
- 12 City of Edinburgh City Plan - The Edinburgh Partnership Group
- 13 Edinburgh Urban Forestry Strategy
- 14 The Scottish Forestry Strategy
- 15 City of Edinburgh Urban Nature Conservation Strategy
- 16 Enhancing Scotland's Golf Environment Strategy
- 17 Greenspace Strategy