GRANTS TO VILLAGE HALLS 2004/2005

1 Purpose of Report
To request Members' consideration of Village Hall Projects seeking financial assistance for improvements and renovation in financial year 2004/05 in terms of the available budget of £87,468.

2 Background
2.1 The nature of the Village Halls Grants Scheme is such that implementation of projects is often dependent upon other third party funding sources such as the Scottish Executive Local Capital Grant Scheme (LCGS) and National Lottery "Awards for All". Timescales relating to consideration of third party funding applications will therefore often determine when a particular project can start and this also means that there is, on occasions, the need to carry forward Council Village Hall grant awards into future financial years to ensure that Council match-funding is available when needed. Scottish Executive LCGS funding, for example, requires the local authority to provide 25% of total eligible costs in respect of any LCGS award.

2.2 Given the circumstances detailed at 2.1, there is usually a degree of flexibility in relation to when Council Village Hall grants can be awarded. If, for example, a particular application is unsuccessful in terms of a Scottish Executive LCGS award, this can mean a rescheduling/revisiting of the project and a Council award not being taken up in a particular financial year.

2.3 For applications received for 2004/2005, account requires to be taken of the Education and Community Services Committee decisions of 21 October 2003 in relation to match-funding for Scottish Executive LCGS applications in 2004/2005.

2.4 At Committee on 21 October 2003, Members AGREED to support six applications to the Scottish Executive. The submissions from Brydekirk Village Hall and Mansfield Hall, Rigg have already received formal notification of the Council's commitment to 'the local authority match funding element' (25% of total eligible costs). However, the following submissions require formal agreement of the Council match-funding element:

- The Buccleuch Halls, Langholm ...........................................[DGC funding of £50,000]
- Parton Village Hall ..............................................................[DGC funding of £2,978]
- Twynholm Village Hall .........................................................[DGC funding of £32,064]
- Beattock Village Hall ............................................................[DGC funding of £4,750]

These applications are considered as part of the Grants to Village Halls 2004/2005.

3 Financial Implications
3.1 As indicated, the sum available in terms of Grants to Village Halls 2004/2005 is £87,468. The total value of applications received (including three late submissions) amounts to £148,848 creating a shortfall of £61,380 on available budget.
3.2 In relation to the information provided in Section 2, recommendations for funding for 2004/2005 take into account timescales for Scottish Executive LCGS projects which are likely to develop over the next two financial years and applications where Hall Management Committees are already in receipt of Council grant awards for projects still to be completed.

3.3 The recommendations contained in this report allow consideration of the three late applications and if Members agree to all of the funding recommendations, a balance of £4,717.75 will remain available for future disbursement in terms of the Grants to Village Halls 2004/2005. As indicated earlier, however, this figure may increase during the course of the financial year if other projects are successful in receipt of third party funding or are unable to proceed due to a lack of such funding.

3.4 Further reports will be brought forward for Members’ consideration during the course of the year in respect of any alteration to individual funding opportunities.

4 New Applications
4.1 The following Hall Committees have made requests for grant assistance in 2004/2005 as indicated in the table below. Further details on individual projects and recommendations for financial support are shown from section 4.2 onwards.

| 2. Beattock Village Hall | £4,750 | 10. Kirkcudbright Scout Hall | £800 |
| 3. Clarebrand Village Hall | £1,058 | 11. Buccleuch Halls, Langholm | £50,000 |
| 4. St John's Town of Dalry Town Hall | £1,265 | 12. Locharbriggs Comm Centre | £19,000 |
| 5. Dundrennan Village Hall | £4,500 | 13. Mansfield Village Hall | £7,500 |
| 6. Eskdalemuir Ex-Servicemen's Hall | £4,000 | 14. Moffat Water Hall | £6,116 |
| 7. Ewes Hall | £350 | 15. Parton Village Hall | £2,978 |
| 8. Glenriddel Hall | £4,990 | 16. Twynholm Village Hall | £32,064 |

Late Applications

| 1. Georgetown Community Centre | £3,050 | 3. Thornhill Community Centre | £20,000 |
| 2. St Mungo Hall, Kettleholm | £12,413 |

4.2 Balmaclellan Village Hall: Balmaclellan Village Hall was constructed in the 1920s and modifications made in the 1940s when materials were scarce and of poor quality. The Village Hall Committee propose to provide a retaining wall with associated drainage works to resolve dampness problems; undertake roof repairs and associated external works, external painting and replacement of windows. The total cost of the project is £15,511 of which project funding of £9,515 is requested from Dumfries and Galloway Council. The full grant of £9,515 is recommended.

4.3 Beattock Village Hall: Beattock Village Hall Committee have submitted a Scottish Executive LCGS application to undertake external renovation to upgrade gutting, pointing and masonry work; dry rot treatment to flooring and a new renewable energy heating system. The total cost of works is estimated at £19,000 and the LCGS request is dependent upon a Council grant of £4,750. This application was subject to consideration at Education and Community Services Committee on 21 October 2003. The full grant of £4,750 is recommended.

4.4 Clarebrand Village Hall: Clarebrand Village Hall Committee intend to purchase tables for use in the hall. They have requested a Council award of £1,058
of the total project cost of £1,587. Previous Community Resources Committee policy was to award 50% of costs in relation to applications for purchase of equipment. Accordingly, a grant of £793.50 is recommended.

4.5 St John's Town of Dalry Town Hall: St John's Town of Dalry Town Hall Management Committee have requested that the Council meet the total cost of works to undertake repairs to the Town Hall floor, painting of the Town Hall kitchen and assistance with disabled access to the Hall amounting to £1,265. On the basis that the total cost of works is being sought from the Council based on previous policy, a grant of £948.75 is recommended (75% of total costs).

4.6 Dundrennan Village Hall: Dundrennan Village Hall Committee have commissioned a structural inspection of the Hall and have a Civil Engineer's recommendation to undertake roof strengthening work comprising renewal of metal tie rods in existing roof trusses, strengthening of existing roof purlins and fixing metal ties between the wall head and existing ceiling support framework. The estimated cost of the works is £12,500 and a grant of £4,500 is requested from the Council. A Council award of £5,000 (accrued) was made towards this project in financial year 2001/2002 as support for a Scottish Executive LCGS bid. The Scottish Executive bid has been unsuccessful and on this basis, the full additional grant of £4,500 is recommended.

4.7 Eskdalemuir Hall: Eskdalemuir Ex-Servicemen's Public Hall Committee intend to undertake a range of works including provision of new damp-proofing system, drainage works, repairs to brickwork and rendering and pebbledash top coat finish to external walls, underfloor joist repairs and groundworks to the back and sides of the Hall together with gutter repairs. The total cost of the project is £10,000 and a contribution of £4,000 is requested from the Council. It is recommended that the full grant of £4,000 is awarded.

4.8 Ewes Hall: The Hall Committee have requested a sum of £350 towards a total cost of £700 to purchase folding tables. The full grant of £350 is recommended on the basis that this is consistent with previous committee decisions to award 50% of costs towards equipment purchase.

4.9 Glenriddel Hall: Glenriddel Hall Committee propose to install a new central heating system in the hall and have requested that the Council fund the cost of this work on the basis that their own reserves, Community Council funding and fundraising will be utilised for other hall improvements including roof repairs against a total package of improvements amounting to £6,792. Glenriddel Hall, Dunscore is used on a regular basis for meetings of Mid and Upper Nithsdale Area Committee. The full grant of £4,999 is recommended.

4.10 Kippford Hall: Kippford Association have identified Village Hall redecoration costs of £1,000 and are requesting a sum of £700 from Dumfries and Galloway Council towards the costs. The full grant of £700 is recommended.

4.11 Kirkcudbright Scout Hall: Kirkcudbright Scout Hall Committee intend to install replacement kitchen equipment and redecoration of the kitchen, toilet and hall including repair works, provision of new doors and light fittings. The total estimated cost is £1,250 and the Council request is for £600. It is recommended that the full grant of £600 is awarded.
4.12 **The Buccleuch Halls, Langholm:** The Langholm Halls Management Committee have a highly ambitious scheme to extend the Buccleuch Halls to create a new entrance and foyer, new catering, bar and toilet facilities, additional multi-purpose areas to increase level of community activities and refurbishment of the main hall to include retractable, tiered seating and a full sized stage. A Scottish Arts Council Lottery Award of £561,490 (70% of total cost) is available for the project which is also the subject of a Scottish Executive LCGS bid for £100,000. This application was subject to consideration at Education and Community Services Committee on 21 October 2003, when Members AGREED this as a submission to the Scottish Executive in terms of the LCGS 2004/2005 with a Council village hall grant supporting award of £50,000 which it was considered could be spread over financial years 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. If the LCGS submission is successful, this is likely to be formally approved by the Scottish Executive around September 2004 with a requirement to start works on site before 31 March 2005. On this basis, it is considered that Council funding for the project could probably be phased over two financial years commencing 2004/2005 and on this basis **an initial grant of £15,000 is recommended for 2004/2005.**

4.13 **Locharbriggs Community Centre:** Locharbriggs Community Centre is a private, community-owned facility opened in June 1970. The Community Centre Association intend to carry out works to provide a heating system and provision of disabled access ramps to the front entrance and fire exits. The total estimated cost of works is £30,000 and it is considered that this project would be a suitable submission to the Scottish Executive LCGS. On this basis, it is therefore recommended that a Scottish Executive funding application for £15,000 be made and at this stage, a **grant award of £7,500 be made** (25% of the total eligible costs as required by Scottish Executive).

4.14 **Mansfield Village Hall:** Mansfield Hall Management Committee, Rigg, have submitted an application to the Scottish Executive LCGS 2004/2005 to renew defective internal plasterwork and address damp penetration in the main hall and kitchen; specialist treatment to deal with rot and woodworm in sub-floor lintel and joist ends, external re-render to cure damp penetration; replace window frames (original 1906 installation); heat/energy conservation benefits from the range of works involved. The total estimated cost is £18,662 and the LCGS request is for £9,200. A Council village hall grant award of £3,600 has already been made in respect of this project in the current financial year and the outcome of the LCGS submission 2004/2005 is presently awaited. The Hall Management Committee have however now submitted a further project funding request in terms of the Council Village Hall Scheme 2004/2005 for the sum of £7,500 and the overall cost of the project appears to have risen to a total of £23,562. At this stage, it is therefore recommended that we await the outcome of the LCGS bid and set aside a further sum of £5,000 in respect of the Village Halls Scheme 2004/2005 towards overall project costs. This would ensure that, in the event of the LCGS bid being unsuccessful, there would be a total Council resource of £9,600 (including a Lower Annandale Area Committee award of £1,000) being available to assist, along with local and "Awards for All" funding to undertake a substantial proportion of the works. **A Council grant of up to £5,000 is therefore recommended** depending upon the outcome of the current LCGS submission.

4.15 **Moffat Water Hall:** Moffat Water Hall Committee have submitted an application in relation to the second stage of hall improvements which relate to the provision of modern kitchen facilities and disabled access for all users. Total costs
involved amount to £9,116 and a Council grant of £6,116 is requested. Moffat Water Hall received an award of £8,250 in terms of the first stage of the improvements in the current financial year. The full grant of £6,116 is recommended.

4.16 Parton Village Hall: Parton Village Hall Committee has submitted a Scottish Executive LCGS bid to renovate and upgrade kitchen facilities; reline and insulate internal walls and ceilings; relay kitchen floor; renew electrical wiring; replace windows and external door; internal decoration, fireproofing and other works to meet fire safety requirements. At Education and Community Services Committee on 21 October 2003, a Village Halls grant award of £2,978 was agreed as local authority match funding (25% of total eligible costs). The full grant of £2,978 is therefore recommended.

4.17 Twynholm Village Hall: Twynholm Village Hall Committee has submitted a Scottish Executive LCGS bid to extend the hall to provide a community room to be used independently of the main hall; internet room with extension; relocate and upgrade gents’ toilet and convert existing substandard gents’ toilet to increase storage; pitched roof to extension to replace existing flat roof; wall insulation to main hall and replace rotting wall panelling; renew heating system with energy efficient gas boiler with area isolation facility to conserve energy. At Education and Community Services Committee on 21 October 2003, a Village Halls grant award of £32,064 was AGREED as local authority match funding (25% of total eligible costs). The total cost of the project is estimated at £128,256. If the LCGS submission is successful, this is likely to be formally approved by the Scottish Executive around September 2004 with a requirement to start works on site before 31 March 2005. On this basis, it is considered that Council funding for the project could probably be phased over two financial years commencing 2004/2005 and on this basis an initial grant of £10,000 is recommended for 2004/2005.

5 Late Applications
5.1 If Members agree to the above award recommendations, a sum of £9,717.75 remains. On this basis, funding would be available to provide some assistance to the late applications referred to below.

5.2 Georgetown Community Centre: Georgetown Community Centre Management Committee have identified costs of £3,050 for the renovation of meeting rooms within the Centre. Georgetown Community Centre is a former Regional Council Community Education Centre and as such, in terms of operational arrangements, the Council maintains the building internally and externally while the Management Committee fund purchase of all Centre consumables and retain income generated from fees. On the basis that the Council is responsible for internal maintenance, no grant is recommended.

5.3 St Mungo Hall, Kettleholm: St Mungo Hall Committee wish to undertake a range of works relating to Disability Discrimination legislation to upgrade toilet facilities and provide tarmacadam access around the hall including disabled access. The Hall Committee is requesting that the Council meet the total cost of the works which are estimated at £12,413.20. At this stage it is recommended that officers further develop the range of works with the Hall Committee including specific legislation requirements relating to Disability Discrimination. The opportunity will also be taken to develop with the Hall Committee other funding sources. It is therefore suggested that a sum of up to £5,000 be set aside for support to this project. A grant of up to £5,000 is therefore recommended.
5.4  **Thornhill Community Centre**: Thornhill Community Centre is a former Regional Council Community Education Centre and Thornhill Community Centre Management Committee wish to provide additional storage to compensate for the loss of storage facilities following provision of disabled toilet facilities. The provision of disabled toilet facilities at Thornhill Community Centre was undertaken and funded by the Council as owner of the building and on this basis, in terms of the Management Agreement, it would be appropriate for further consideration to additional storage needs to be developed by the Council in partnership with the Management Committee. **It is therefore recommended that this application is deferred** to allow further investigation into partnership funding opportunities and Council support. In this respect, officers are already developing the possibility of a Council Community Capital Fund application being submitted by the Centre Management Committee (it should be noted that the Centre Management Committee have requested that the Council meet the full cost of provision of the additional storage estimated at £20,000).

6  **Emergency Funding**

6.1  During the current financial year, two requests have been received from local Village Hall Committees for Council assistance in relation to emergency repairs. Information on these awards will be reported to Members in terms of the quarterly report on funding authorised by the Corporate Director. Financial assistance has been possible in these instances by utilising funding available within other Education and Community Services revenue budgets.

6.2  For 2004/2005, it is recommended that the balance of the Village Halls budget be set aside for this purpose. **It is therefore recommended that £4,717.75 be set aside as an emergency repairs budget for Village Halls.**

7  **Conclusions**

7.1  Early decisions by the Council in terms of financial support to Village Halls allows local Hall Committees to secure other forms of external funding such as Lottery Funding including "Awards for All" and Scottish Executive Local Capital Grants Scheme. Such applications are often augmented by local fundraising.

7.2  Viable modern village halls are of significant importance, particularly in the smaller more isolated communities in Dumfries and Galloway. Indeed, as Members will recall, the catastrophic effects of Foot and Mouth Disease in Dumfries and Galloway highlighted the importance of village halls in the local community. External funding for village halls has been at a high level in recent years. However, the lead in time for major projects can require development over a number of years and in this respect, Council support is paramount, particularly where Village Hall Committees are being encouraged to secure major funding to enable Council-owned halls to be leased and subsequently modernised to provide "Halls for the 21st Century". The role of the Village Hall in local communities will form an important part of the review process of the Council portfolio of Village Halls and Community Centres agreed at Education and Community Services Committee on 24 February 2004.

7.3  The Council Village Hall Grants Scheme is clearly appreciated by local Management Committees and in many instances, even modest Council funding is necessary to enable smaller, older halls to meet continuing local community needs.
In many of the smaller communities, even relatively modest sums can be difficult to raise at local level.

7.4 The introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is clearly also going to have an ever increasing impact as Hall Committees work to meet the requirements of this legislation.

8 Staffing
8.1 While there are no additional staffing implications associated with the development of this report, it is clearly the case that a growing number of local Hall Management Committees are depending on the support of a range of Council officers to help them achieve their objectives and in many instances successful bids for third party funding are relying on an increasing basis on Council officer support in respect of completion of applications, information on legislation, seeking estimates and ongoing liaison with funders such as the Lottery and Scottish Executive.

8.2 Demand for Council officer support is also increasing where applications are successful to ensure that the requirements of third party funders for additional support information and, indeed, in submitting claim forms can be met.

9 Policy
Support for Village Halls fits well with the Council Corporate Plan themes of Enterprising and Learning, Inclusive and Safe and Healthy Communities given the wide range of events which local village halls support.

10 Consultation
The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Corporate Director for Corporate Services
- Director for Finance
- Area Manager (Annandale and Eskdale)
- Area Manager (Nithsdale)
- Area Manager (Stewartry)

11 Recommendations
11.1 Members are requested to agree Village Hall Grant Awards in respect of financial year 2004/2005 as follows:--

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<th>Village Hall</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balmacellan Village Hall</td>
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<td>Beattock Village Hall</td>
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<td>Clarebrand Village Hall</td>
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<td>St John's Town of Dalry Town Hall</td>
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<td>Dundrennan Hall</td>
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<td>Glenriddle Hall</td>
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<td>Kippford Hall</td>
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<td>Kirkcudbright Scout Hall</td>
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<td>Buccleuch Halls, Langholm</td>
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<td>Locharbriggs Community Centre</td>
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<td>Mansfield Village Hall</td>
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<td>Moffat Water Hall</td>
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11.2 To utilise the balance of the Village Halls budget amounting to £4,717.75 for emergency repair awards.

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File Ref: CR/10/1 SSA/PH

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