GRANTS TO VILLAGE HALLS 2005/2006

1. Purpose of Report
To request Members' consideration of Village Hall Projects seeking financial assistance for improvements and renovation in financial year 2005/06 in terms of the available budget of £90,092.

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), Big Lottery "Awards for All", The Energy Agency and Communities Scotland. 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.

Update: This year there has been an added complication in that the Scottish Executive did not inform Dumfries and Galloway Council until 4 April 2005 of their decision in respect of the Local Capital Grants Scheme Applications for 2005/06. Last year, notification was received on 30 January 2004.

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 2005/2006, account requires to be taken of the Education and Community Services Committee decisions of 23 November 2004 in relation to match funding for Scottish Executive LCGS applications in 2005/2006.

2.4 At Committee on 23 November 2004, Members agreed to support the following five applications to the Scottish Executive:

- The Glencairn Memorial Institute .... [DGC funding of £50,000]
- Stormont Village Hall..................... [DGC funding of £5,000]
- Locharbriggs Community Centre .... [DGC funding of £15,568]
- Terregles Village Hall ................. [DGC funding of £50,000]
- Mid-Annandale Playcare............. [DGC funding from Children's Services]

Four of these applications were considered as part of the Grants to Village Halls programme for 2005/2006. The fifth one, Mid-Annandale Playcare, is being supported by Children's Services who have made an in-principle award under the Sure Start Scheme. This, however, is conditional on other funding applications made by Mid-Annandale Playcare being successful.
**Update:** The Scottish Executive advised on 4 April 2005 that they were only able to support the following two applications:

- Stormont Village Hall
- Terregles Village Hall

### 3. Financial Implications

#### 3.1 As indicated, the sum available in terms of Grants to Village Halls 2005/2006 is £90,092. The total value of applications received (including one late submission and the awards detailed at section 2.4) amounts to £245,655, creating an initial shortfall of £155,563 on the ability to meet all the requests for Council funding. The funding for Glencairn Memorial Hall in the sum of £50,000 as match funding for the LCGS bid is now no longer required. The funding for Terregles Village Hall to match the Scottish Executive LCGS is scheduled to be paid over financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. In addition to these projects, account must be taken of the commitment made to support the Buccleuch Halls Project in Langholm in the sum of £35,000 in the financial year 2005/2006.

**Update:** The commitment made in respect of the proposed improvements to Twynholm Village Hall in the sum of £22,064 as agreed by Members for financial year 2004/2005 and £10,000 in financial year 2003/2004 will require to be reassessed in light of the fact that Twynholm Village Hall Committee have decided not to proceed with their current project and are therefore no longer eligible for their LCGS grant of £64,128. Officers will continue to liaise with the Hall Committee in terms of opportunities to resubmit an LCGS application and continue to develop a modified scheme.

In terms of the Council's policy of awarding 75% of eligible capital costs it will be possible to fund all of the applications apart from two as detailed at sections 4.7 and 4.10.

#### 3.2 Newbie Hall Committee was paid grants and loans in the sum of £54,500 as follows: on 26 June 1997 Community Resources Committee approved a grant of £12,500, paid to the Hall Committee on 17 March 1998. An interest free loan was approved on 29 August 1997 which was paid to the Hall Committee on 17 March 1998. On 9 June 1998 a further grant of £30,000 was approved which was paid to the Hall Committee on 25 March 1999. These awards were made on the understanding that if the project to build a new Hall at Newbie did not proceed before 31st March 2005 the capital sums plus interest would be repayable to Dumfries and Galloway Council. A minute of agreement stipulated the terms under which the repayment would be made, less any legal expenses involved in the creation of the minute of agreement. A request for these funds to be returned was made in June 2004. However the Hall Committee invoked the terms of the minute of agreement which referred to 31 March 2005 as the final date for commencement of the project.

**Update:** No progress has been made and Newbie Hall Committee returned the sum of £54,320 on 1 April 2005.

#### 3.3 In relation to the information provided in Section 2, recommendations for funding for 2005/2006 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.

3.4 The recommendations contained in this report allow consideration of the one late application and if Members agree to all of the funding recommendations, a balance of £54,686 will remain available for future disbursement in terms of the Grants to Village Halls 2005/2006 now that the capital due from Newbie Hall Committee has been repaid and Twynholm Village Hall Committee have withdrawn their LCGS application.

3.5 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 2005/2006 as indicated in the table below. Further details on individual projects and recommendations for financial support are shown from section 4.2 onwards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hall Committee</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Other Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Barbour Memorial Hall Glencaple</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Castle-Douglas Bowling Club</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Clarebrand Village Hall</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Closeburn Recreation Hall</td>
<td>£3,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dundrennan Village Hall</td>
<td>£8,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Gilnockie Public Hall</td>
<td>£9,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Glenzier Hall</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Kirkbean Village Hall</td>
<td>£2,709</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Locharbriggs Community</td>
<td>£20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Royal Four Towns</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Urr Parish Hall</td>
<td>£1,334</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Westerkirk ExServicemens</td>
<td>£7,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Application

1. Tundergarth Parish Hall: £580 | Received on 28 February 2005

4.2 Barbour Memorial Hall: The Barbour Memorial Hall is located in the village of Glencaple and is held in trust for all time by the trustees on behalf of the residents of Glencaple. The Deed of Trust was established in 1937. The Management Committee wishes to renovate the kitchen by renewing all the fittings and units at an estimated cost of £2,500. The Hall Committee has free reserves of £1,800 and is prepared to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of the improvements. The full grant of £1,500 is recommended.

4.3 Castle Douglas Carpet Bowling Club Hall: The Management Committee of the Bowlers' Hall raises funding for general running costs and maintenance by organising carpet bowling tournaments and hiring out the hall to other organisations. This hall is the chosen venue for all the Galloway Carpet Bowling Association and Scottish Carpet Bowling Association events which are held on a monthly basis. The Committee wishes to enhance the facilities at the hall and has applied for a grant to install replacement double glazed windows at an estimated cost of £1,668. The full grant of £1,200 is recommended.

4.4 Clarebrand Village Hall: Clarebrand Village Hall Committee intends to carry out a programme of badly needed maintenance to make the hall watertight. This involves repairs to the outside walls and repairs to the roof and drains. They have requested a Council award of £1,200 on a total project cost of £1,200. Council policy is to award 75% of costs in relation to applications for repairs. Accordingly, a grant of £900 is recommended.
4.5 Closeburn Village Hall: Closeburn Village Hall Committee was the recipient of funding from the LCGS Scheme last year in the sum of £15,000 which was matched by Dumfries and Galloway Council by £7,500. The Hall Committee wants to complete the renovation plan by installing new double glazed windows at an estimated cost of £3,800. The full grant of £2,850 is recommended.

4.6 Dundrennan Village Hall: Dundrennan Village Hall Committee has commissioned a structural inspection of the Hall and has 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 £16,000 and a grant of £8,000 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 was unsuccessful. The Hall Committee has been successful in obtaining a grant in the sum of £2,000 from Awards for All and has free reserves of £1,178, of which they are prepared to commit £1,000 towards the repairs. On this basis, the full additional grant of £7,000 is recommended.

4.7 Gilnockie Public Hall: The Hall Committee has made an application for grant aid to carry out repairs and renovation at the hall at an estimated cost of £9,500. From the information which was received with this application surrounding the membership of the committee and the state of repair of the hall, it appears that the hall is of limited use to the community and the long term viability of the hall should be evaluated. In addition it must also be borne in mind that this hall is in close proximity to Canonbie Hall which was the subject of a recent renovation programme which cost in the region of £215,000. It is recommended that consideration is deferred in respect of this application and that Council Officers enter into further discussion with the Hall Committee.

4.8 Glenzier Village Hall: An extensive programme of renovation has been undertaken at this hall since 1999. The current phase, which has involved the installation of disabled toilets and an access ramp together with recladding of the walls, has been funded with grants from Scottish Executive LCGS, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Big Lottery Fund and the fund raising efforts of the Hall Committee. Due to unforeseen extra works to be done in respect of drainage and an increase in costs connected with the disabled toilet and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act, the original budget cost of £33,025 was exceeded by £5,433.62. After adjustments to the work required to be done to finish the current phase and reappraisal of the professional fees, the overspend has been reduced to £3,817.99. It is recommended that a grant of £3,818 be paid to enable the completion of phase two.

4.9 Kirkbean Village Hall: Kirkbean Hall Committee has applied for grant aid towards the cost of installing new double glazed windows at an estimated cost of £2,709. The Hall Committee has held a number of fundraising events and is actively trying to keep the hall in a good state of repair. It is well used by a variety of local groups. A grant of £2,032 is recommended.

4.10 Locharbriggs Community Centre Association: An application has been received for a grant of £20,000 toward the renewal of the heating system. This application is in addition to an application to the Scottish Executive LCGS in November 2004. Members will recall agreeing in November 2004 to an award of
£15,568 as match funding in support of the LCGS application. Several requests for grant funding are still outstanding with other funding providers in respect of the original application. *It is recommended that this application be deferred until the outcome is known in respect of outstanding applications to other funding bodies, relating to the original grant awarded by the Council in November 2004.*

4.11 **Royal Four Towns Hall Association:** An application has been received for a grant of £1,200 to be used for the installation of an automatic Fire Alarm System. This is required as the hall is used by Hightae Primary School for weekly PE lessons. The hall is also used by the local Brownie Pack and a Mother and Toddler Group. The estimated cost of the installation is £1,640. *A grant of £1,200 is recommended.*

4.12 **Urr Parish Hall:** An application has been received for a grant towards a programme of repairs to the ceiling of the hall. As a result of the collapse of part of the ceiling last year an emergency repair had to be carried out with the help of a council grant of £617. The current application is to enable preventative work to be carried out at an estimated cost of £1,334. A grant of 75% of eligible costs would amount to £1,000. The Hall Committee have free reserves £400. *A grant of £1,000 is recommended.*

4.13 **Westerkirk Ex-Servicemens Public Hall:** An application has been received for grant assistance to carry out a programme of repairs and minor renewals to this building. A grant in the sum of £7,500 towards the cost of reroofing and other repairs to the hall was made by Dumfries and Galloway Council in 2003. The Hall Committee has prepared a prioritised list of repair and renewal works to be carried out. The Hall Committee has accumulated free reserves in the sum of £5,000. The Committee has also applied to Big Lottery Fund and to Communities Scotland for financial assistance for this project. The first priority on the schedule of repairs is the renewal of the main floor at an estimated cost of £4,852 (including VAT) and 75% of this would amount to £3,639. *Accordingly a grant of £3,639 is recommended.*

5. **Late Applications**

A late application was received from Tundergarth Village Hall Committee for funding to assist with the installation of a disabled access ramp and handrail. The Hall Committee holds a number of fundraising events throughout the year. The Committee wishes to ensure that the hall continues to be used by a wide variety of users. The estimated cost of the improvements is £881, and the Committee has requested a grant of £587.00. *The full grant of £587 is recommended.*

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 2005/2006, it is recommended that the balance of the Village Halls budget be set aside for this purpose. *Update: It is therefore recommended that the balance of £54,686 is made available to develop further opportunities in respect of Village Halls and for emergency repairs and contingencies.*
7. Conclusions

7.1 Early decisions by the Council in terms of financial support to Village Halls allow 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 Big Lottery, Scottish Executive and other outside organisations such as the Energy Agency, Communities Scotland and other charitable bodies which have funds available to help rural communities.

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
Members are requested to:

11.1 agree Village Hall Grant Awards in respect of financial year 2005/2006 as follows:

11.1.1 Barbour Memorial Hall, Glencaple ................................... £1,500
11.1.2 Castle-Douglas Bowlers Hall ............................................ £1,200
11.1.3 Clarebrand Village Hall ................................................... £900
11.1.4 Closeburn Recreation Hall ................................................ £2,850
11.1.5 Dundrennan Village Hall ................................................... £7,000
11.1.6 Glenzier Public Hall ........................................................... £3,818
11.1.7 Kirkbean Village Hall ....................................................... £2,032
11.1.8 Royal Four Towns Hall Association ..................................... £1,200
11.1.9 Urr Parish Hall ................................................................ £1,000
11.1.10 Westerkirk Ex.Servicemens’ Hall ....................................... £3,639
11.1.11 Tundergarth Village Hall .................................................. £587

11.2 agree NOT to fund the following:

11.2.1 Gilnockie Village Hall ....................................................... £9,500
11.2.2 Locharbriggs Community Centre ....................................... £20,000; and

11.3 to utilise the balance of the Village Halls budget amounting to £54,686 for developing further opportunities, emergency repairs and contingencies.

Report prepared by Ian McMickan, Temporary Support Officer

Stewart Atkinson
Group Manager Community Services
Tel: 01387 260431

Fraser Sanderson
Corporate Director of Education and Community Services
Woodbank, 30 Edinburgh Road, DUMFRIES, DG1 1NW

Date of Report: 7 April 2005
File Ref: CR/10/1 SSA/IM

APPENDICES – 1

Background Papers:
Education and Community Services Committee report of 23 November 2004
Education and Community Services Committee report of 23 March 2004
FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Funds available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget for 2005/2006</td>
<td>90,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclaim from Newbie</td>
<td>54,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total available</td>
<td>144,592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previous commitments (2004/2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buccleuch Halls, Langholm</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twynholm Village Hall</td>
<td>22,064</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LCGS matched funding 2005/2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glencairn Memorial Institute (£50,000 ÷3)</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormont Village Hall</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locharbriggs Community Centre</td>
<td>15,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terregles Village Hall (£50,000 ÷3)</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Applicant recommendations 2005/2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Commitment</td>
<td>137,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>7,234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>