

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 27 APRIL 2010

SUBJECT: SMALL GRANTS BUDGET (SECTION 20) – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – VICTIM SUPPORT MORAY

BY: CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to consider a request for financial assistance from Victim Support Moray.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms Section A (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to considering the financial and budgetary policy of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee consider the application for a Section 20 grant of £200 for Victim Support Moray and if agreed the monies would be paid from the 2010/11 budget.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Expenditure of this nature requires to be determined within the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Under these provisions, as amended by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, such expenditure, now under Section 20, must not only be in the interests of the area, but should also bring direct benefit to the area or inhabitants commensurate with the expenditure incurred.
- 3.2 A request has been received from Victim Support Moray, who aim to improve the wellbeing of people in Moray who are affected by crime by providing the best possible service to achieve this. People affected by crime feel supported and assisted by Victim Support and they can also access other services. Victim Support also assists victims and witnesses with the criminal justice process. Staff and volunteers have the skills, competencies and resources to support people affected by crime and deliver these services cost effectively.
- 3.3 At the meeting of The Moray Council on 4 July 2007 (para 24 of the minute refers), Councillors S.Cree and A. McDonald were appointed as the Council's representatives on the Forum.
- 3.4 The grant will be used for celebrating Victime Support's past 20 years of service in Moray and continuing to raise the profile of their services whilst raising publicity, thanking those who have supported them in the past and encouraging future support in the community.

- 3.5 The event will take place in Elgin Town Hall on Friday 21 May 2010. From 12noon to 2.00pm there will be invited guests, volunteers and committee for formal celebrations and then from 2.00pm – 4.00pm there will be an open event to the public as an information/support point.
- 3.6 There is a copy of their accounts in the Members Lounge for information.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

This refers to the corporate plan in developing a strategic approach to advancing social inclusion and social justice.

(b) Policy and Legal

None

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Part 3 Section 20,21 & 22 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 provides members with the legislative framework under which grants from budget are made.

If agreed, the grant will be met from the Small Grants Budget for 2010/11, the total budget available for this financial year is £8,000. **Appendix 1** provides details of the Small Grants Budget Statement.

It should be noted that Victim Support had an analyst post paid out of the Anti-Social Behaviour budget at a cost of £17,000 which ceased as part of the budget saving measure in 2010/2011.

(d) Consultations

The Chief Executive and Deborah Bosworth, Principal Accountant has been consulted and concurs with the recommendations of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee considers the request from Victim Support Moray for a Section 20 grant of £200.

Author of Report: Cynthia Carswell, Committee Services Officer

Background Papers: Application from Victim Support Moray

Ref: