

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 22 JUNE 2010

SUBJECT: GRAMPIAN RACIAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Policy & Resources committee are invited to consider a request for Section 20 grant assistance for 2010/2011 for Grampian Racial Equality Council.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms 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 Section 20 grant application for 2010/2011 for Grampian Racial Equality Council (GREC) amounting to £2,600 and if agreed the grant will be met from the Small Grants Budget for 2010/2011.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Policy & Resources meeting on 27 April 2010, the meeting considered the request for Section 20 grant for Grampian Racial Equality Council. During discussion members queried the work GREC were doing on behalf of the Council. In response the Chief Executive and Chief Legal Officer agreed to bring back a report on the work giving further information on the services provided in Moray by GREC.
- 3.2 As stated at the previous meeting 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.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 GREC's mission is "Working with others to ensure that everyone is valued for who they are and is able to contribute with encouragement and without fear of

discrimination or unfair treatment.” The aims of GREC which underpin their mission are:-

- To work towards the elimination of discrimination
- To promote good relations between people
- To promote equality of opportunity for all.

4.2 The financial assistance from the Moray Council would enable GREC to provide its core service to Moray Council. The grant would cover the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 and will assist with the running/operating costs of GREC, enabling them to provide a core service in Moray.

4.3 In relation to GREC’s work in Moray, the Director of GREC provided the following information giving details of the work carried out in Moray over the past year.

4.4 **Casework – Discrimination and Harassment**

4.4.1 GREC undertakes casework in Moray relating to discrimination or harassment on the grounds of race, religion, faith or belief. During the relevant reporting period, GREC’s casework service provided support in the following cases in Moray:

- 4 cases regarding Racist/Prejudice Incidents (harassment).
- 2 cases regarding racial discrimination

4.5 **Teamwork Against Racist Crime**

4.5.1 GREC monitors racist incidents across the north of Scotland, including Moray. Since April 1st 2009 GREC monitors not just racist incidents but all hate crimes and prepares statistical reports on the findings. These findings were reported to:-

- Moray Social Inclusion Implementation Group.
- Grampian Joint Racist Incidents Partnership.
- Moray Police Diversity Officer to support her input for a meeting with primary and secondary head teachers.
- Head of Education, Moray Council.
- Moray Council Equal Opportunities Officer

4.5.2 Regarding activities undertaken by GREC’s statistician for Moray in the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010, the following is a summary:

- Attended the Moray Social Inclusion Implementation Group meeting held on 26th May 2009 at the SVCO office in Elgin. During the meeting the question of combating racism among young people was raised in the course of GREC’s presentation of the report written for the meeting. It was

noted that GREC used to send their people to schools to raise awareness about racism but that this has declined. The view was expressed that the school inputs were a positive initiative and the Group would be interested in any future proposal to develop schools inputs around the question of racism and its negative effects.

4.6 Counselling

- 4.6.1 GREC offers a free, professional counselling service for those suffering due to discrimination or harassment. All counsellors are either fully qualified or students nearing completion of their counselling course. All have considerable experience and training in counselling and are members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.
- 4.6.2 The service is culturally aware, professionally run but also informal and friendly. The counsellors work on a voluntary basis and, as professionally required, they receive monthly supervision from an external, experienced supervisor. GREC makes a financial contribution towards this. The service provides telephone counselling as well as face to face sessions. Clients are often referred through casework where they have been able to build up trust in the organisation. Clients can also self refer or come via GP referrals etc.
- 4.6.3 During the relevant reporting period, no clients were seen by counsellors in Moray. However, in August 2009 a new volunteer counsellor was recruited in Moray and has (during the current financial year) begun working with one Moray resident.

4.7 Schools and Young People

- 4.7.1 GREC works directly with schools and school pupils and this is an area of work that Moray Council has expressed a keen interest in expanding with GREC. However, due to limited funding, the level of school inputs in Moray has had to be reduced. Nevertheless, during the relevant reporting period, GREC delivered the following school inputs:
- June 2009 GREC was contacted by the Head Teacher of Speyside, to conduct workshops to introduce pupils to some of the less familiar aspects of European life, culture and issues. This was to be organised around a two day 'European Theme' the school was holding. GREC liaised with Principal Teacher of Geography, who asked that the theme be on the positive contribution of European migrants to the North-East of Scotland in order to instil positive images and dismiss any racism. Also to include something on the culture of some of these countries. He advised that he would like this workshop run on 4 occasions for 50/55 minutes, and should be geared to S1, S2 and S3 pupils with preferably a mix of activities, including some inter-activity for the children. To meet the specified requirements, research and preparation required several days. A PowerPoint presentation was prepared and handouts and 2 activities included.

- In January 2010, GREC delivered a 40 minute presentation on Diversity and Equality to 30, P7 Pupils at St Sylvester's Primary in Elgin.
- Also in January 2010, GREC delivered two presentations encompassing all the pupils at St Thomas RC School, Keith, again on Diversity and Equality. Approximately 60 pupils were involved.

4.8 Anne Frank Award

4.8.1 Moray Council has been fully involved in the Anne Frank Award since its inception twelve years ago. For the 2009 Anne Frank Award, all 65 Primary and Secondary Schools in Moray were written to and sent an Anne Frank booklet giving guidance on submission of entries. St Thomas RC School in Keith were the Winners of the Award for 2009.

4.9 North East Scotland Equalities Network (NESEN)

4.9.1 The formation of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), together with progress towards a single Equality Act, signals a shift of emphasis towards working in partnership across a number of equalities areas. For this reason, GREC has been instrumental in forming a North East Scotland Equalities Network (NESEN)

4.9.2 NESEN is a new user-led initiative that keeps members connected and informed of events, news and requests for assistance etc across the equality spectrum: from mental health, disability and gender to race, faith, sexual orientation and age. The objective is to allow material to be shared more widely and holistically rather than being disseminated in specific fields of interest and operation. NESEN is actively increasing its membership base across the Moray region with the assistance of the MVSO. Visit www.nesen.org.uk to view the web pages.

4.10 Communication

4.10.1 GREC makes effort to maintain contact and communication with Moray officers, elected members, schools and other Moray based individuals. During the relevant reporting period, the following communications took place:

- GREC Newsletters were sent in June 2009 and February 2010
- Invites to a GREC presentation delivered by Barney Crockett on Migration & Equality in Europe were sent in February 2010
- Invites to GREC's AGM on 26th October 2009 sent
- Invites to GREC's Open Day on 17th December 2009 sent

4.10.2 This correspondence was sent to:
26 Moray Councillors
7 MSPs

1 MP
14 individuals

4.10.3 Cllr Anne McKay as GREC representative has been invited to Executive Committee meetings and has received numerous correspondence

4.10.4 Correspondence has also been sent to Moray Equal Opportunities Officer:

4.11 Miscellaneous

4.11.1 GREC chairs the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Ethnic Minority Forum (EMF). In September 09 the EMF hosted a Criminal Justice Services Seminar in Aberdeenshire. Moray Council's Equal Opportunities Officer was invited to join the Seminar planning group and to notify Moray staff and minority communities of the event. Two Moray Criminal Justice social workers attended the Seminar.

4.11.2 In October 09 GREC's membership approved a motion to change GREC's name to "Grampian Regional Equality Council" to reflect a broadening of GREC's remit to include other equality strands (for example the monitoring of all prejudice incidents). This change will take effect from April 1st 2011. Two members of NESEN – the North East Scotland Equalities Network mentioned above – representing age and disability groups, will be joining GREC's Executive Committee in Autumn 2010. In future, therefore, GREC will be able to serve Moray on a broader range of equality issues.

5 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

This refers to National Outcome 7 "We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society" and the Local Outcome which states that "Inequalities in Moray will be addressed".

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

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

The Grampian Racial Equality Council is requesting a grant of £2,600 for 2010/2011 and if agreed, the grant will be met from the Small Grants Budget.

(d) Consultations

Previous consultations have taken place with Deborah Bosworth, Principal Accountant on the Section 20 grant.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request from the Grampian Racial Equality Council for a grant of £2,600 for 2010/2011

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Background Papers:

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