1 SUMMARY

1.1 Over the past 2 years, Stirling Council has supported local groups to access Armed Forces Community Covenant Grants to the value of £117,266.

1.2 This report provides information on the seven applications that have been successful in obtaining a grant to strengthen the link between the Armed Forces and civilian communities.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Panel agrees:-

2.1 to note the local projects that have been successful in obtaining an Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant, and their work to strengthen the links between the Armed Forces and civilian communities.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Stirling Council agreed at the Council meeting in March 2012 to sign the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The signing ceremony was held on Stirling Armed Forces Day in June 2012 and involved over 20 local organisations.

3.2 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

3.3 For the past 2 years the Ministry of Defence have made available to Armed Forces Community Partnerships a grant scheme where applications can be submitted, for funding, for local projects which will strengthen links between the Armed Forces and local communities. This grant scheme has now come to an end.
3.4 Grant applications were assessed locally by a panel that includes representatives of 51 (Scottish) Brigade, the three military Services, local community covenant partnership charities and Scottish Government.

3.5 Within the Stirling Council area successful grant applications have generated a total of £117,266 for local organisations.

3.5.1 Balaclava Pipes and Drums obtained a grant of £10,000 to replace uniform, purchasing new kilts and plaids. Further details are attached at Appendix 1. (Ref CC457).

3.5.2 Dunblane Museum obtained a grant of £10,000 for a WW2 Atlantic Walls project. This project continues until the end of this year and interim details are attached at Appendix 2. (Ref CC751).

3.5.3 Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce previously received an award of £25,000 (Ref CC677) for the ViNE project (Veterans into Employment), assisting veterans and their families into setting up their own business. A further application was successful in obtaining an additional £37,000 (Ref CC1370) to build on the success of the initial pilot project. Details of the initial pilot project are attached at Appendix 3.

3.5.4 Volunteer Scotland obtained a grant of £15,652 for a project titled Preparation for Volunteering. This project is to create a bespoke entry point for military personnel to Volunteer Scotland's national volunteer matching system for individuals who are preparing for discharge from active service. (Ref CC1368).

3.5.5 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Trust obtained a grant for £9,614 for an education project to establish a WW1 outreach programme. (Ref CC1369).

3.5.6 Artlink Central obtained a grant for £10,000 for a Veterans’ public art project in the Forth Valley area, in partnership with NHS Forth Valley. (Ref CC1042).
4 POLICY/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Implications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equality Impact Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Environmental Assessment</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serving Stirling</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Outcome Agreement</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity (age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation)</td>
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<td>Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effect on Council’s green house gas emissions</td>
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<td>Strategic/Service Plan</td>
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<td>Existing Policy or Strategy</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Internal or External Consultations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 The contents of this report were not relevant for EqIA assessment.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

4.2 This report relates to a Policy to strengthen links between the Armed Forces and civilian communities and it was determined that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment was not required.

Serving Stirling

4.3 The proposals set out in this report are consistent with the following key priorities:
   K - Examining and delivering on more opportunities for improved models of service delivery

Single Outcome Agreement

4.4 The proposals set out in this report support the following outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement:
   Improved opportunities for learning, training and work

Other Policy Implications

4.5 None.

Resource Implications

4.6 None.
Consultations
4.7 None

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 Report to the Provost’s Panel in August 2014 provided details of 3 successful applications and £45,000 had been obtained for local projects.

5.2 Report to the Provost’s Panel in February 2015 providing details of 3 applications totalling £50,266 submitted for consideration.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 - Report from Balaclava Pipes & Drums.

6.2 Appendix 2 - Report from Dunblane Museum.

6.3 Appendix 3 - Report from Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce on the ViNE Project.

Author(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Telephone Number/E-mail</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristine Johnson</td>
<td>Chief HR Officer</td>
<td>Ext 33294           <a href="mailto:johnsonk@stirling.gov.uk">johnsonk@stirling.gov.uk</a></td>
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Approved by

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Director Corporate Operations</td>
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Date 9 July 2015 Service Reference
Dear Dr Wareing,

Community Covenant Award Scheme – Project Evaluation

I enclose my report on the completion of the project referred to above for the purchase of new items of uniform for the Balaklava Pipes & Drums of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Association, in accordance with my application for funding in October 2013.

I enclose also a copy of my letter dated 9/12/14 to Karen Ludlow at HQ 51 Scottish Brigade, Stirling, together with copy Invoices from Argyll Kilts Ltd for the supply of the new kilts and plaids, as under:-

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<thead>
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<th>Invoice Date</th>
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<td>31/10/14</td>
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Total £10,160

I trust that you will find the enclosures sufficient for your accounting and reporting purposes, and would appreciate having confirmation of your safe receipt of same.

Yours sincerely,

COLIN H.C. GRAHAM
Project Evaluation Questionnaire

Project Name: Balaklava Pipes & Drums   AFCCGS Ref. CC457
Local Authority: Stirling

Project Outline
To equip the Band, which is sponsored by the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders’ Regimental Association, with new items of uniform to upgrade the dress of the band members, both pipers and drummers, thus improving their appearance at public engagements in the Stirling area and further afield.

How has the project met its initial aims as outlined in the bid, and have these been met within the timescales?
The aims have been met by reducing the items of uniform originally requested, in order to keep expenditure within the Grant of £10,000; this enabled us to equip the 22 band members with new kilts and plaids. However, the timescale had to be extended to 6 months, from the time the money was made available, material acquired and the uniform items being produced.

How has the project met the aims of the Community Covenant?
By re-equipping it in smart new, well-fitting items of dress, it has improved the Band’s visual impact, but also the bearing and morale of its members. Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and the general public attending Band performances will be able to better identify it with the local County regiment, its history and traditions.

How many people have benefitted from the project?
Hard to assess; not only the 22 members of the Band, but chiefly the public at large that have, or will attend its appearances at local events, e.g. National Armed Forces Day, 28th June 2014 in Stirling which attracted large crowds from across the area.

How have people benefitted from the project?
In time, the local community, veterans and others will be impressed by the smart turnout and performance of the Band since being re-kitted out.

Were any other agencies, groups and/or organisations involved in the project?
Those that assisted us in bringing it to fruition were Stirling Council and 51 Scottish Brigade.

How did we ensure any contracts for delivery of goods and services represented value for money?
A detailed quotation for the supply of the new kilts and plaids was obtained from a leading local supplier of Pipe Band uniforms whose prices were very competitive. Copies of their Invoices are attached to this Report. The over-spend of £160 was met from Band funds.

Was the money received from the Grant Scheme spent as detailed in our original bid?
We reduced our expenditure to match the available Grant money by omitting the 12 Doublets, saving £6,000.

How do we measure the success of the project?
Difficult - it is too early to assess, as the Band was only fully kitted out by the end of October 2014. Our engagement bookings are coming in, and some new members are showing interest in joining the Band.
Has the grant enabled us to develop other opportunities for the future? Is the project to continue when the grant money has been spent?
As stated, it is very early days, but there are some exciting new approaches from various organisations seeking to book the Band, which is committed to representing the Regiment at both military and civilian occasions over the next 5 – 10 years.

Have there been any challenges delivering against the project aims? If so, how were these overcome?
The timescale was protracted because (a) the money supply was quite slow, and we could not place an order with our supplier until we had the money in the bank.
(b) The tartan material had to be specially woven before tailoring could commence, which meant that we were unable to parade in the new uniforms until after the end of our main public engagement programme in 2014.

What have we learnt from the project? What would we change if repeating the project?
We would ensure that the supplier was clearer about the time scale, including the time required to source materials.

Did any unexpected benefits occur as a result of the project?
Not yet!

Did you obtain any publicity for the project?
We would have had some good publicity if we had been able to parade in the new uniforms on National Armed Forces Day at the end of June last year – regrettably, we were not, for the reasons given above.

Any other comments?
None

Signed:

COLIN H. C. GRAHAM TD
Capt(Ret’d)
Band President
Dear Mrs Ainslie,

I am writing with regards to your successful Community Covenant Grant Scheme bid for £10,000 - reference CC751, and to request a report on the progress of your project.

The attached questionnaire should enable you to provide all the information we require. I would be grateful if you would complete it and return it to my higher Headquarters at the postal address or email shown on the document as soon as you can and by no later than Friday 13 Feb 2015.

There is no word limit when answering the Questionnaire. While generally I would encourage brevity, please do not exclude any vital information or detail because of concern over the length of the response. I do appreciate it may be too early to properly assess the progress of your bid, and if that is the case I would be grateful for an interim report.

If you have any other queries about the form then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me and I will offer any assistance I can.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Ludlow
Mrs Karen Ludlow
SO2 Military Civilian Integration
Project Evaluation

Project Name: D-Day 70: Understanding Britain’s Atlantic Walls
Local Authority: Stirling
AFCCGS Reference: CC 751

Outline of the Project:

a:
1. Laser scanning the remains of a replica Atlantic Wall on Sheriffmuir and 3 others in UK.
2. Presenting a temporary exhibition associated with the UK Atlantic Walls in Dunblane Museum
3. A colour parade and service of commemoration in Dunblane Cathedral on D-Day 70th anniversary (6.6.2014).
4. Community activities to celebrate the 1940s
5. Schools activities (as above) and to include archaeology with young people
6. Research at Kew
7. To film community events and produce a digital record of the research relating to the UK Atlantic Walls

How has your project met its initial aims as outlined in the bid and have these been met within the timescales?

a: This is a two year project in conjunction with HLF and will finish at end Dec 2015. This is, therefore an interim report. From list above items 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been completed. Item 5 is partially complete. Item 6 will be undertaken this year. Item 7 is partially complete and will continue throughout this year.

How has your project met the aims of the Community Covenant?

a: The major event on D-Day 2014 brought together the combined forces, veterans, cadets and the public. It allowed the community at large to recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces Community during WW2. The whole project has raised the profile of the WW2 Atlantic Walls remains through an exhibition, guided walks and lectures. The participation of the Armed Forces Community was vital to the success of the project.

How many people have benefitted from your project?

a: so far:

1940s Dance night – 120 pers. Schools 40s dance classes 130. Guided walks 50. Cathedral service 500
Public watching parade – estimate 100. Lectures to local societies 140.
Visitors to temp exhibition 3000+
Total 4040

How have people benefitted from your project?

a: Learning and understanding the role of the Armed Forces in conflicts of WW2.
Discovering a local connection to the success of D-Day in the form of the training and testing on the local Atlantic Wall. Seeing the wall with expert battle field guides. Engaging with the music, food and dance of the 1940s. Hearing the story of the discovery of blueprints for the wall found by the French Resistance. Witnessing the support for the Armed Forces at the service in the Cathedral.
**Were any other agencies, groups and/or organisations involved in your project?**

| a: Yes |
| British Legions in Scotland. HQ 51 (Scottish) Brigade personnel |
| SSAFA. All 3 armed services. Cadets. Boys Brigade. 3 local primary schools. Stirling Council. |

**How did you ensure any contracts signed for delivery of goods and services represented value for money? Do you have a full account of expenditure including invoices & receipts?**

| a: By going out to tender. Following guidelines from HLF for procurement. All accounts for the project are correctly recorded. HLF will monitor our spend and our full museum accounts are submitted to OSCR and published on-line. |
| So far we have spent approx. £21,000 and the second instalment of the grant has been authorised and checked by HLF |

**Can you confirm the money received from the grant scheme was spent as detailed in your original bid? Please give any details of differences.**

| a: The project is not complete yet. Further expenditure will be incurred this year |

**In your bid you detailed ‘how you would measure success’. Can you confirm that this measurement process has taken place and detail your findings?**

| a: The number of people benefitting from this project is testament to its success. As we have not yet completed the project we are continuing to monitor and evaluate the project. This will form part of the final claim to HLF. |
| Feedback so far has included positive comments in our visitor book, thanks via e-mail and facebook for the service of commemoration and the guided walks. |

**Has the grant helped you develop other opportunities for your scheme in the future? Is the project to continue once the Community Covenant Grant Scheme money has been spent?**

| a: The grant has created a body of knowledge and filled a gap in our understanding of the strange concrete monoliths that remain as relics of WW2. The story will be an on-going one. Research always turns up more unexpected information and it is very likely that this will be added to well after the life of this project. |
| A part of the project is to create a permanent digital record of the walls with the laser scans and the research. This will remain in the collections of Dunblane Museum for perpetuity. |

**Have you faced any challenges delivering against the project aims? If you did face challenges how were these overcome?**

| a: No |

**What have you learnt from undertaking this project? (Are there parts that worked particularly well or things you would change if you were to do this project again?)**

| a: This project could not have gone so well without the support and encouragement (under the capable guidance of Major Maurice Walsh) of the Military team. It was a pleasure to work with them all. I can not imagine wanting to change anything if we were to do the project again! |

**Did any unexpected benefits occur from carrying out this project?**

| a: (I will address this fully when we complete the project) |

**Did you obtain any publicity for this project? If so, please give details and examples.**

| a: Yes. Press and media coverage of the D-Day 70 activities. |
| A feature in the Herald about the Atlantic Wall |

**Are there any other comments you would like to add?**

| a: I cannot over emphasise how impressed I was with Major Walsh and his dedicated team. The application process to the Community Fund was straight forward and the support has been excellent. |