

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
GRANTS ASSESSMENT PANEL COMMITTEE

Date Monday 2nd March 2015.

1. **HEADING** SMALL GRANTS.

Submitted by: Robin Wiles, Partnerships Officer (Community Development).

Portfolio: Resources & Efficiency.

Ward(s) affected: The applications for consideration potentially affect all Wards.

Purpose of the Report

To consider applications submitted to the Small Grants scheme for the second quarter of 2014/15.

To receive a report on Green Grants.

To receive reports regarding the Review of Sports Council funding.

Recommendations

Panel consider the Small Grants applications submitted with a view to determining whether a grant should be awarded, and if so, at what level.

Panel should note the current situation with Green Grants awarded to date.

Panel receive a report, and note the recommendations thereof, regarding Sports Council funding.

Reasons

Grants Assessment Panel's remit is to determine which of the Small Grant applications meet the Council's Corporate Priorities and merit an award.

Grants Assessment Panel's remit is to receive reports on Green Grants expenditure.

A change in the administration and remit of Sports Council's grants will affect the Grants Assessment Panel's role.

1. **Background**

1.1 The Small Grants budget for 2014/15 is £17,600.00.

1.2 Voluntary & Community groups can apply for a grant of up to £2,000.00.

1.3 To date, nine grants have been approved at a total of £14,668.30. This leaves £3,660.20 in the budget.

1.4 Seven applications have been received for consideration at this meeting, totalling £10,978.79. This would leave a balance of **-£11,547.09**.

1.5 The Green Grants scheme provides grants of up to £200.00 for environmental projects. As of 11/02/15, four grants totalling £850.00 has been issued, leaving £1,850.00 in the budget.

1.6 A review of Sports Council grants has been completed, with Grants Assessment Panel's remit amended as a consequence.

2. **Issues.**

2.1 **Applications.** For information about applications for consideration for this meeting, please see Appendix Two.

2.2 **Green Grants.** For a summary of Green Grants, please see Appendix Three.

2.3 **Sports funding.** A review of Sports Council funding has been carried out – please see Appendices Four a, b & c.

3. **Options Considered** (if any)

3.1 For each application, GAP can award:-

- Full grant.
- Partial Grant.
- No Grant.
- Defer a decision until the next Panel meeting, either to obtain further information, and/or to invite the applicant to attend the meeting dependant on whether there are any time constraints on projects seeking funding.

Proposal.

4.1 The applications received are from eligible organisations, and potentially contribute towards meeting the Council's Corporate Priorities and the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4.2 Members consider each application on its merits, taking into account other possible funding options that applicant may be able to apply to.

4.3 Members note the Green Grants expenditure to date.

4.4 Members note the recommendations from the Sports Council Review Working Group and the implications for the Grants Assessments Panel.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

5.1 There may be other sources of funding to which applicants can be directed should they be awarded no grant, or a partial grant.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 All the applications for consideration meet both Corporate Priorities and those of the Sustainable Community Strategy – please see the applications for further details.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 All applications, if awarded, would be expected to have a positive impact on the communities that they benefit.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 The annual budget for the Small Grants scheme is £17,600.00.

9.2 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £10,978.79, £7,318.59 more than remains in the budget.

9.3 The proposals in respect of Sports Council funding should have some reductions in administrative costs for the Council.

9.4 Since Sports Council funding will no longer provide grants for sports clubs and associations, there may be an increase in demand for such funding to the Community Chest scheme.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Not Applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 One of the applications primarily affects Audley & Bignall End Ward; one primarily affects Loggerheads & Whitmore Ward. The other applications are Borough-wide.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Not Applicable.

13. **Recommendations**

13.1 Members consider each Small Grants application on its merits, taking into account other possible funding options that applicants may be able to access.

13.2 Members note the Green Grants expenditure.

13.3 Members note the Review of the Sports Council funding and the implications for the Grants Assessment Panel's remit.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Small Grant applications 2014/15 Record.

14.2 Small Grant applications 2014/15 – details.

14.3 Green Grant applications 2014/15 Record.

14.4a Sports Council Review Report.

14.4b Draft Sports Council Advisory Council Constitution.

14.4c Draft Talented Athlete Grant Aid criteria.

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Copies of applications will be e-mailed to Panel members in advance of the meeting. Hard copies will not be made available to reduce printing costs, but can be viewed in advance - please contact Robin Wiles on 742493 or robin.wiles@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.