

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

**Date                    Monday 3rd March 2014.**

1. **HEADING** SMALL GRANTS.

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

**Portfolio:** Resources & Efficiency.

**Ward(s) affected:** All bar two of the applications for consideration potentially affect all Wards.

One application primarily affects Silverdale & Parksite and Knutton & Silverdale Wards.

One application primarily affects Chesterton and Talke Wards.

**Purpose of the Report**

To consider applications submitted to the Small Grants scheme for the final quarter of 2013/14.

**Recommendations** (to be in bold)

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

**Panel receive information regarding Grants Budgets for 2014/15.**

**Reasons**

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

1. **Background**

1.1 The Small Grants budget for 2013/14 is £22,000.00.

1.2 Voluntary & Community groups can apply for a grant of up to £2,500.00.

1.3 At the previous Grants Assessment Panel meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 one grant of £1,000.00 was awarded. To date, nine applications totalling £12,200.00 have been awarded, leaving £9,780.00 in the budget.

1.4 2 applications were deferred from the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013, for further information to be obtained in respect of queries from the Panel.

2. **Issues**

2.1 Applications. 12 applications, including 2 deferred from the previous meeting, are for consideration at this meeting, at a total of £23,433.48. For further information about applications for consideration for this meeting, please see Appendix One.

2.2 Grants Budgets for 2014/15.

A discussion was held at the meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 about reductions in grants budgets for 2014/15.

The proposed 2014/15 budget will be formally approved by the Council at the end of February 2014. Confirmation of the grants budgets for 2014/15 will be brought to the meeting.

2.3 Underspend.

The Green Grants budget, as at 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014, shows an underspend of £2,051.06, with 2 applications totalling up to £500.00 pending. Please see Appendix 3.

There is also the likelihood of underspend in the Community Chest budget.

Any underspend will not be carried forward to 2014/15.

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

3.1 For each application, GAP can award:-

- Full grant.
- Partial Grant.
- No Grant.
- Decisions cannot be deferred since this is the final Panel meeting of the financial year.

3.2 At the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013, recommendations were approved as to how to ameliorate the effects of grant budget reductions. The table below provides an update.

<b>Action.</b>	<b>Update.</b>
Reduce the maximum grant level, enabling more grants to be issued than if they stay as at present. As far as perceptions are concerned, this may be very significant.	Details to be agreed.
The apportionment of the overall budget between the different grants could be reviewed, with the potential to move funds between them or indeed to merge some grants.	For further consideration.
Review the criteria for all grants with a view to being more rigorous in our requirements and expectations.	Ongoing.
Working with voluntary & community sector partners (e.g. VAST) to provide more comprehensive & consistent funding advice & support.	Ongoing.
Open and transparent discussions with the voluntary & community sector to inform and explain about the reductions.	Presentation to Newcastle Voluntary Sector Forum, 26/1/14.

3.3 The Panel has the facility to move funds between grants budgets should there be a justifiable need. Given that any underspend will not be carried forward to 2014/15, it would be advisable that this be considered.

4. **Proposal.**

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

4.2 Projects (not organisations) that receive a grant in two successive years are required to take a break for the following year before they are eligible to apply again.

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

4.4 The Panel note the update in managing the reductions in grants budgets.

4.5 The Panel give the Chair authority to approve any reallocation of unspent funds in grants budgets as appropriate.

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.

5.2 Grants previously awarded in 2013/14 could be legitimately given an additional award from unspent grant budgets unless there are good grounds not to. This might be preferable than the unspent funds being unused.

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 balance in the budget for the Small Grants scheme is £9,780.00.

9.2 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £23,433.48, more than double the remaining balance.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Not Applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 All bar 2 applications potentially affect all Wards.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Not Applicable.

13. **Recommendations**

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

13.2 Members consider how best to manage the re-allocation of unspent grants budgets.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Small Grant applications – details.

14.2 2013/14 Application Record.

14.3 Green Grants budget summary.

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 Copies of applications will be e-mailed to Panel members. 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.