

SMALL GRANTS

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

Portfolio: Resources and Efficiency

Ward(s) affected: The applications for consideration include one that potentially affects all wards.

Purpose of the Report

To consider applications submitted to the Small Grants scheme for the final quarter.

Recommendation

That the Panel gives consideration to the applications set out in the attached appendix with a view to determining whether grants should be awarded, and if so, at what level.

Reasons

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

1. Background

- 1.1 The Small Grants budget for 2011/12 is £22,000.00.
- 1.2 Voluntary and community groups can apply for a grant of up to £5,000.00.
- 1.3 The average grant awarded in 2010/11 was £1,997.86
- 1.4 The maximum grant awarded in 2010/11 was £3,000.00.
- 1.5 At the Panel meetings held on 14 June and 6 September 2011, a total of £10,016.00 grants were awarded to 8 organisations, leaving a current balance of £11,984.00.
- 1.6 Two applications have been submitted by the deadline for consideration at this meeting.
- 1.7 An Internal Audit inspection has recently been carried out on the grants processes.
- 1.8 Cabinet decisions on the Grants Review have been reached.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Details of the applications received are set out in the attached appendix.

2.2 Internal Audit Inspection

An Internal Audit inspection has recently been carried out on grants processes and confirmed that that "processes and procedures were found to be well controlled and no recommendations have been made with regards to the issuing of grants."

2.3 Grants Review

- The recommendations of the Grants Review were approved by the Cabinet on 7 September 2011, with changes to take effect from 1 April 2012.
- Key changes relating to the Grants Assessment Panel include:-
 - (a) The upper limit for a Small Grant to be reduced to £2,500.00.
 - (b) Green Grants to be reported to the Grants Assessment Panel.
 - (c) The Grants Assessment Panel to be given limited authority to move money between grant budgets that fall within its remit, during the final quarter of the financial year when the following apply:-
 - *The amount being moved is no more than the maximum level of grant that applies to the grant scheme from which it is being moved, and*
 - *There are sufficient funds left in the budget for the grant scheme from which money is moved after all applications to that scheme have been considered, and there are insufficient funds left in the budget for the grant scheme to which money is moved to fund valid applications to that scheme at the level that the Grants Assessment Panel would wish to award.*
 - (d) A formal relationship between the Sports Council and the Grants Assessment Panel, including representation and reporting between the 2 bodies, be established (contingent on agreement by the Sports Council).

3. Options Considered

3.1 For each application, GAP can award:-

- Full grant
- Partial Grant
- No Grant
- Defer decision to next Panel meeting with further information required

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 The applications in total come to £4,200.00, with a current balance in the budget of £11,984.00.
- 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 Members note the outcome of the Internal Audit inspection.
- 4.5 Members note the decisions of Cabinet on the Grants Review.

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**

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 £22,000.00.

9.2 Grants awarded to date leave £11,984.00 in the budget.

9.3 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £4,200.00. If all applications were approved that would leave £8,134.00 in the budget for the final quarter of 2011/12.

10. **Major Risks**

Not applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Application SG 1112 11 primarily affects the Ward of Silverdale and Parksite.

11.2 Application SG 1112 12 potentially affects all Wards.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

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 note the outcome of the Internal Audit inspection.

13.3 Members note the decision of the Cabinet regarding the Grants Review.

14. **List of Appendices**

Appendix – Details of applications for consideration.

15. **Background Papers**

Copies of applications will be e-mailed to Panel members in advance of the meeting.