

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE  
GRANTS ASSESSMENT PANEL COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**SMALL GRANTS.**

**Submitted by:** Robin Wiles, Community Regeneration Officer.

**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 final quarter.

**Recommendations**

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

**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 2011/12 is £22,000.00.
- 1.2 Voluntary & 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 meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011, a total of £4,800.00 grants were awarded, leaving a current balance of £17,200.00.

**2. Issues**

**2.1 - SG 1112 04, St. Andrew's Church, Westlands, "St. Andrew's Church Hall Toilet Upgrade".**

- St. Andrew's Church is a CofE Church in the Westlands.
- The Parochial Church Council is applying for £5,000.00 towards the £16,332.00 they are seeking to raise to upgrade the toilets in the Church Hall to provide disabled facilities. The

Church Hall is used for a number of community activities. They state that a minimum of grant of £3,500.00 would be acceptable.

- They have raised £2,000.00 to date from other sources for this project.
- This is the first application they have submitted to this scheme.
- This application was considered by the Panel at the meeting held of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011, with the decision deferred with further information needed, including a further breakdown of costs. A site visit was undertaken, a report of which (including a breakdown of costs) is attached at Appendix A.

#### 2.2 - SG 1112 07, Samaritans of Stoke & Newcastle-under-Lyme, "Core Funding".

- Samaritans is a Registered Charity that provides support for people experiencing emotional distress and at risk of committing suicide.
- They are applying for £2,500.00 towards their core running costs of c£29,000.00.
- They have applied for a grant from Stoke-on-Trent City Council, with, at the time of their application, a decision pending.
- They received a Small Grant of £2,500.00 in 2010/11, and no grant in 2009/10.

#### 2.3 - SG 1112 08, Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle & District Talking Newspaper for the Blind, "Running Costs"

- Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle & District Talking Newspaper for the Blind is a Registered Charity that records, on cassette tape, a sample of news items from The Sentinel, for blind and visually impaired people. Tapes are provided on a fortnightly basis.
- They are applying for £716.00 towards their running costs of £1,166.00 for the year. The bulk of their costs are from hiring the room where recording takes place and insurance.
- They have secured a grant of £450.00 from Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Small Grants scheme.
- They received a Small Grant of £1,013.00 for their running costs in 2009/10.

#### 2.4 - SG 1112 09, North Staffs Special Adventure Playground, "Acquisition of lease for new outdoor play area".

- North Staffordshire Special Adventure Playground (NSSAP) is a Registered Charity that provides recreational & educational activities and support, at a purpose-built playground in Newcastle, for children & young people with disabilities, physical and learning, and their families/carers.
- They are negotiating a lease with the Council for a plot of land adjacent to their current premises, which would enable them to extend their facilities.
- They are seeking £850.00 to cover the legal fees to complete the lease agreement.
- They have not received a grant under this scheme in the last 5 years, but have received some funds through commissioning.
- NSSAP submitted an application for the same purpose in 2010/11 that was considered by the Panel at its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The decision of the Panel at that

meeting was that the matter would be more applicable for a remission of charges for consideration by the Council's Property section, but that if this was not possible, NSSAP could re-submit an application during 2011/12. It has subsequently proved to be the case that a remission of charges is not possible, hence this application.

#### 2.5 – SG 1112 10, North Staffs Special Adventure Playground, “The Junior Club”.

- North Staffordshire Special Adventure Playground (NSSAP) is a Registered Charity that provides recreational & educational activities and support, at a purpose-built playground in Newcastle, for children & young people with disabilities, physical and learning, and their families/carers.
- They are seeking £5,000.00 towards the £13,667.31 cost of running their Junior Club for children aged 6 – 9 years old with disabilities. They state that, if the full amount applied for is not possible, “any contribution is acceptable”.
- They have received funding from the Four Acre Trust for the last 3 years that expires at the end of September 2011; the Four Acre Trust has indicated a willingness to continue funding, but with a condition that some financial support is provided by the host Local Authority.
- They have not received a grant under this scheme in the last 5 years, but have received funds through commissioning.

#### 2.6 - Repeat grant applications.

- Concern has been expressed about applicants who submit repeat applications every year, and that it may be inappropriate for the Council to consider such applications.
- It is therefore proposed that, with effect from 2012/13, applicants who receive a grant in two consecutive years will be required to take a break for the following year, and will be unable to apply for the same purpose for the third year running.

#### 2.7 - Grants Review.

- As Members may be aware, a Review of Grants that the Council provides from its own funding is being undertaken on behalf of the Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- An initial report has been produced (attached at Appendix B), with preliminary recommendations.
- Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Report at its meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 – please see Report for the Committee's decisions.
- The Report will be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

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

#### 3.1 For each application, GAP can award:-

- Full grant.

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

## **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 £9,066.00, with a current balance in the budget of £17,200.00.
- 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 With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, applicants will be unable to receive a grant for more than two years in succession for the same purpose.
- 4.5 Members note the preliminary recommendations of the Grants Review Report, and the decisions of Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## **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 £22,000.00.
- 9.2 Grants awarded to date leave £17,200.00 in the budget.
- 9.3 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £9,066.00. If all applications were approved that would leave £8,134.00 in the budget.

## **10. Major Risks**

- 10.1 Not Applicable.
11. **Key Decision Information**
- 11.1 The applications for consideration 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 approve the proposal that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, applicants will be unable to receive a grant for more than two years in succession for the same purpose.
- 13.3 Members note the preliminary recommendations of the Grants Review Report and the decisions of Active & Cohesive Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
14. **List of Appendices**
- 14.1 APPENDIX A. SG 1112 04 St. Andrew's Church, Report from Site Visit 12.7.11.
- 14.2 APPENDIX B. Grants Review Report.
15. **Background Papers**
- 15.1 Copies of applications shall be e-mailed to Panel members in advance of the meeting **If any Panel member would like hard copies in advance of the meeting, please contact Robin Wiles on 742493 or [robin.wiles@newcastle-staffspartnership.org.uk](mailto:robin.wiles@newcastle-staffspartnership.org.uk) before Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.**