

SMALL GRANTS

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

Portfolio: Resources and Efficiency

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Purpose of the Report

To consider applications submitted to the Small Grants scheme for the final quarter of 2012/13.

To consider any issues regarding the policy and procedures for Borough Council grants.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Panel considers the applications submitted with a view to determining whether a grant should be awarded, and if so, at what level.**
- (b) That the Panel receives a report on Green Grants expenditure to date.**
- (c) That the Panel considers reallocation of any underspend from one grant budget to another, if appropriate.**
- (d) That the Panel notes the indicative grants budgets for 2013/14.**
- (e) That the Panel considers a proposal regarding the Grants Appeals procedure.**

Reasons

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

The proposed 2013/14 budgets for grants are to be considered by Full Council on 27 February 2013.

An Appeals procedure was adopted by the Grants Assessment Panel on 7 September 2010. Officers wish recommend a review of the process.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Small Grants budget for 2012/13 is £22,000.00.
- 1.2 Voluntary & Community groups can apply for a grant of up to £2,500.00.
- 1.3 At the Panel meeting of Tuesday 11 December 2012, the second tranche of a grant that had been approved for an initial 50% grant at the June 2012 meeting was approved at totalling £1,025.00.
- 1.4 The balance in the budget therefore stands at £10,306.25.
- 1.5 There are also three grant applications deferred from previous meetings for consideration at this final meeting of the financial year totalling £4,682.27 – one of the applicants has reduced the amount requested, bringing the total down to £2,937.00.

- 1.6 The balance in the Green Grants budget is reported to the final Panel meeting of the financial year.
- 1.7 The Panel have the authority to move money between grant budgets, 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.
 - 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.
- 1.8 The proposed budget for grants for 2013/14 are to be considered by Full Council on 27 February 2013 as part of the overall budget proposal.
- 1.9 An Appeals procedure was approved in September 2010, and is due for a review.
2. **Issues**
- 2.1 Twelve applications have been received for submission to this meeting, in addition to three deferred applications.
- 2.2 One application that was deferred from the September 2012 meeting is re-submitted to this meeting; two applications that were deferred from the December 2012 meeting are re-submitted to this meeting.
- 2.3 For information about applications for consideration for this meeting, please see Appendix One.
- 2.4 A summary of the Green Grants budget as of 13 February 2013 is attached as Appendix Two. This indicates that there is a current balance of £2,507.52 in the budget, but with five applications at a total of £1,250.00 that could still be issued, which would leave a balance of £992.48.
- 2.5 The Panel can consider moving unspent funds between grants budgets if appropriate. In the case of Community Chest and Green Grants, there may be further grants issued after the Panel meeting; any decision to reallocate funds from those budgets will therefore have to be provisional and dependent on the final budget situation as of 31 March 2013.
- 2.6 The following budget for grants for 2013/14 is being proposed within the overall budget, to be determined by Full Council at its meeting on 27 February 2013:-
- Community Chest, £60,000
 - Cultural Grants, £14,360
 - Green Grants, £4,750
 - Homelessness Grants, £17,500
 - Non Specific Small Grants, £22,000
- 2.7 An Appeals Procedure was approved by the Grants Assessment Panel at its meeting held on 7 September 2010. Officers wish to recommend consideration of the establishment of a Reserve Fund to cover the contingency that an Appeal is successful and a grant awarded thereof. A discussion document is presented for consideration.

3. **Options Considered**

3.1 For each application, Panel can award:-

- Full grant.
- Partial Grant.
- No Grant.
- The option to defer a decision is not available since this is the final Panel meeting of the financial year.

3.2 The Panel can also, since this is the final meeting of the year, move unspent money between budgets.

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 Members consider each application on its merits, taking into account other possible funding options that applicant may be able to apply to, and with cognisance of the funds left in the 2012/13 budget.

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 2012/13 Small Grants scheme is £22,000.00. The current balance stands at £10,306.25.

9.2 Applications for consideration by the Panel for this meeting total £25,391.05; if all applications were approved for a full grant that would leave a deficit of **£15,084.80**.

10. **Major Risks**

Not Applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 Twelve of the applications for consideration potentially affect all Wards; one primarily affects Newchapel Ward, one primarily affects Halmerend Ward, and one primarily affects Keele Ward.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Not Applicable.

13. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Small Grants details
Appendix B - Application 2012/13 Record
Appendix C - Green Grants summary as of 13.2.13
Appendix D - Grants Appeals Procedure
Appendix E - Grants Appeals Procedure discussion paper

15. **Background Papers**

Copies of applications forms 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-staffpartnership.org.uk.