

GRANTS APPEAL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Grants Appeal procedure was introduced in September 2010 – this allows applicants to appeal against a decision to award them no grant, or a grant at a lower level than applied.
- 1.2 Appeals can only be lodged on the basis that the decision was unsound, and not on the basis that it wasn't fair.
- 1.3 Since introduction, no appeal has been made.

2. Issue

- 2.1 Should an appeal be upheld, one of the options for redress is to award the appellant the grant originally applied for.
- 2.2 Officers have identified that, although the risk of this happening is low, the funds for paying the grant would need to be identified.
- 2.3 This could present a particular problem if a successful appeal relates to a grant decision made by during the last quarter of the financial year when it is reasonable to expect most, if not all, of a grants budget to have been spent.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Leaving matters as they are is unsatisfactory; having identified the risk, however unlikely, it cannot be ignored.
- 3.2 Establish a contingency account to be ethically invested (thereby attracting interest), with the aim of maintaining the account at a minimum level that equates to the maximum grant that could be awarded following a successful appeal. This could be started using underspend from the 2012/13 budget. Interest accumulated could be redeployed into the grants budget.