

SMALL GRANTS

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

Portfolio: Resources and 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 second quarter of 2013/14.

Recommendations

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

Panel consider a new approach to Grants Appeals.

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 June 2013 Grants Assessment Panel meeting, two grants were awarded, totalling £3,270.00. This leaves £18,730.00 in the budget.

1.4 A Grants Appeals procedure was approved by Grants Assessment Panel at its meeting on 7th September 2010. The procedure has been used once, as reported to the last meeting of Grants Assessment Panel held on 10th June 2013, and therefore a review of that procedure may be considered appropriate.

2. Issues.

2.1 Applications. 7 applications, including 1 deferred from the previous meeting, are for consideration at this meeting, at a total of £14,483.00. For further information about applications for consideration for this meeting, please see Appendix Two.

2.2 Grants Appeals procedure. Following the use of the Appeals Procedure, it has been identified that there is a close correlation with the Council's Corporate Complaints, Complements &

Comments Policy. It is therefore recommended that, in case of future appeals, appellants be directed to use this route to register their complaint – or their complement or comment.

3. Options Considered

3.1 For each application, GAP can award:

- Full grant.
- Partial Grant.
- No Grant.
- Defer a decision until the next Panel meeting, either to obtain further information, and/or to invite the applicant to attend the meeting dependant on whether there are any time constraints on projects seeking funding.

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 Members consider replacing the Grants Appeals procedure with using the Corporate Complaints, Complements & Comments Policy for any grants appeals.

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 The current Grants Appeals procedure requires the Panel Chair to deal with any appeal against a Panel decision; this could lead to a conflict of interests. Using the Corporate Complaints, Complements & Comments Policy instead would remove that, and be more independent of the Panel.

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 £18,730.00.

9.2 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £14,483.00. If all applications were approved for a full grant, that would leave £4,247.00 in the budget.

9.3 Recommendations for grants to be awarded total £8,410.00 (plus £1,500.00 from the Cultural Grants budget). If these recommendations were approved, that would leave £6,073.00 in the Small Grants budget.

10. Major Risks

10.1 Not Applicable.

11. Key Decision Information

11.1 One application for consideration primarily affects the Ward of Audley & Bignall End; the other 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.

14. List of Appendices

14.1 Small Grant applications – details.

14.2 2013/14 Application Record.

14.3 Corporate Complaints, Complements or Comments Policy.

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-staffpartnership.org.uk.