

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
GRANTS ASSESSMENT PANEL COMMITTEE

Monday 9th December 2013.

1. **HEADING** SMALL GRANTS.

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

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 third quarter of 2013/14.

Recommendations (to be in bold)

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

Panel receive information regarding Grants Budgets for 2014/15.

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 previous Grants Assessment Panel meetings of 2013/14, eight grants were awarded, totalling £11,220.00. This leaves £10,780.00 in the budget.

1.4 1 application was deferred from the meeting held on Monday 16th September 2013, with the applicant invited to this meeting to answer queries from the Panel before a decision is made.

2. **Issues**

2.1 Applications. 3 applications, including 1 deferred from the previous meeting, are for consideration at this meeting, at a total of £7,323.00. For further information about applications for consideration for this meeting, please see Appendix One.

2.2 Grants Budgets for 2014/15.

The Council's Budget Review Group has been carrying out a review of all budgets in light of the cutbacks in local government funding. This review has included grants budgets, with recommendations that would see reductions in these budgets – please see Appendix Three.

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

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.

3.2 Reductions in grants budgets will be implemented. The Panel will have a key role to play in determining how these can be implemented without causing serious detrimental affect on the voluntary & community sector in Newcastle.

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 The Panel considers how to best deal with the reductions in grants budgets – please see Appendix Three for some thoughts for consideration.

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 Reductions in grants budgets should be implemented so as to cause minimal harm to both the voluntary & community sector and to the Council's reputation.

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 £10,780.00.

9.2 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £7,323.00. If all applications were approved for a full grant, that would leave £3,457.00 in the budget.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Not Applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Both 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.

13.2 Members consider how the Council can best manage the implementation of reductions in grants budgets.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Small Grant applications – details.

14.2 2013/14 Application Record.

14.3 Grants budget paper.

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.

2. **Issues.**

2.1 Applications. 3 applications, including 1 deferred from the previous meeting, are for consideration at this meeting, at a total of £7,323.00. For further information about applications for consideration for this meeting, please see Appendix Two.

2.2 Budgets. Reductions in grant budgets need to be managed to reduce any negative impact on both the voluntary & community sector in Newcastle, and on the Council.

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

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.

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 receive the report on reductions in grant budgets, and consider any appropriate actions thereof.

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 Panel need to be aware of reductions in grant budgets, and to identify any appropriate actions.

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.

8.2 Reductions in grant budgets could have a negative impact on equalities since less grant funding will be available to fund voluntary and community groups that deal with equalities issues.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 The balance in the budget for the Small Grants scheme is £10,780.00.

9.2 Applications submitted for this GAP meeting total £7,323.00. If all applications were approved for a full grant, that would leave £3,457.00 in the budget.

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