

GRANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday 24th September 2007

at 2.00 pm

**in the Red Room , Avondale Centre,
Dyke House, Hartlepool
(Raby Road entrance)**

MEMBERS: GRANTS COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, Councillors Payne and Tumilty.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2007 *(attached)*
- 4. KEY DECISIONS**

No items
- 5. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 5.1 Civic Lottery Fund – *Director of Adult and Community Services*
 - 5.2 Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*
- 6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No items

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

16 July 2007

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (In the Chair)

Councillors The Mayor

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Tracy Liveras, Young People and Play Co-ordinator
Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Pat Usher, Sport and Recreation Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Appointment of Chair

Councillor Payne was appointed Chairman of the Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Victor Tumilty.

3. Declarations of interest by members

None

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2007

Confirmed

5. Civic Lottery Grant Applications *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider Civic Lottery Grant Applications.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report sought the Committee's consideration of the following:-

- the general approach to the allocation of the available balance for 2007/8
- the approach to the award of grants for citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties and delegating authority to officers to approve these grants.
- applications where no previous grants had been awarded.
- applications where grants had previously been awarded

Following consideration of the information provided Members expressed support for the applications. Amendments to the approach to applications for funding towards senior citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties were also approved, in line with the recommendations outlined in the report.

Decision

- (i) The allocation of the available balance of £19,859 for 2007/08 was noted and the setting aside of £1,500 in respect of applications for senior citizens summer outings and Christmas parties was approved.
- (ii) Authority was delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive to award summer outings and Christmas party grants in accordance with the approved criteria.
- (iii) The following allocation of grants was approved:-

Application number	Organisation	£
3233	Headland Boxercise Club	500
3235	White Crane Tai Chi Group	500
3227	Activ8 Centre Partnership	500
3238	Friends of Tees and Hartlepool Yacht Club Sailing Cadets	500
3237	The Princess Royal (Hartlepool Lifeboat) Trust CIC	500
3225	San Gai Karate Club	500
3231	Hartlepool Snooker Centre Church and District League	500*
3236	RASC/RCT Association – Teesside Branch	160*

(* Organisations that have previously received Civic Lottery Grants)

6. Directed Lettings 2007/2008 – Hire of Premises by Voluntary/Community Groups *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide details of applications to the Directed Lettings Scheme, the hire of premises by voluntary/community groups.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

Members were reminded that approval had been given at the meeting of the Grants Committee on 12th March 2007, to the allocation of funding from the Community Pool of £4,000 for Directed Lettings, the hire of premises by voluntary/community groups. Grant aid was targeted towards the groups operating in the most disadvantaged areas.

In all cases grant aid was recommended towards the costs of the hire of a venue for one meeting per week. Recommendations were presented as follows:-

Organisation	Amount Recommended 2007/2008
Hartlepool Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	£570
20 th Hartlepool Brownie Guides	£600
34 th Hartlepool Guides, Brownies, Rainbows	£525
1st Hartlepool Brownie Unit	£264
Hartlepool Youth Choir	£300
Hartlepool Swimming Club	£520
Hart Parish Council	£220
Elwick Parish Council	£220
Total	£3,219

Detailed information on the applications was appended to the report.

Decision

- i. That the following levels of grant aid from the Community Pool Directed Lettings allocation be approved:

Hartlepool Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	£570
20 th Hartlepool Brownie Guides	£600
34 th Hartlepool Guides, Brownies, Rainbows	£525
1st Hartlepool Brownie Unit	£264
Hartlepool Youth Choir	£300
Hartlepool Swimming Club	£520
Hart Parish Council	£220
Elwick Parish Council	£220

- ii. That the remaining balance of £781 be returned to the main Community Pool budget.

7. **Community Pool 2007/2008** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To provide details of:

- i. The current financial position of the Community Pool budget for 2007/2008
- ii. A request from West View Advice and Resource Centre to change the use of their 2007/08
- iii. An application for a three-year tapered revue grant from the Princess Royal Lifeboat Trust

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Community Pool provides financial assistance to community groups and voluntary organisations with £457,109 being available during 2007/2008. To date, grants had been awarded to 23 groups totalling £376,003. leaving a balance of £166,764.

West View Advice and Resource Centre

At the meeting of Grants Committee on 12th March Members approved an award of £30,324 for West View Advice and Resource Centre (WV ARC). However the group had been successful in securing additional funding, including the full costs of the Centre Manager's Salary. As the Community Pool award included a contribution to this salary WV ARC requested that this funding be retained and attributed to the salary costs of a fulltime Debt Advice Worker's post. Members indicated they were happy to approve this change of use, provided it was emphasised that this would be one-off support.

PRINCESS ROYAL LIFEBOAT TRUST

An application for a 3 year tapered revenue grant of £6,635 had been received from the Princess Royal Lifeboat Trust for running costs of the Princess Royal Lifeboat. Members were recommended to reject this application as it did not strictly meet the criteria of the Community Pool and there was no evidence of match funding. However Members felt it would be a shame to reject this application given all the time and funding already spent on the project. It was suggested that their application might be reconsidered in order to meet the criteria and more effort could be made to achieve match funding.

Decision

- i. That the current financial position relating to the 2007/2008 Community Pool budget as detailed in the report be noted
- ii. That the request from West View Advice and Resource Centre to change the use of their 2007/2008 grant from the Community Pool be approved
- iii. That the application from the Princess Royal Lifeboat Trust be deferred with the recommendation that match funding be sought.

8. Play Opportunities Pool Award 2006/2007 *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise members of applications to the Play Opportunities Pool and to seek approval for recommended grant awards.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

Grant aid totalling £18,849 annually is available to community groups and voluntary organisations to enable them to provide play opportunities throughout the year, thereby complimenting the Authority's play provision. The provision of play grants also enables groups to provide play to meet local needs, especially in areas of disadvantage to assist local people on limited incomes.

Grant Awards are used as a contribution towards the cost of a play opportunity, with the Authority's funding acting as a magnet to attract match funding. In total, two applications have been assessed with requests from the Grants Pool for staff costs, volunteers, venue hire and insurance. At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 12th March 2007 members approved grant aid to six groups, totalling £15,634.31, leaving a balance of £3,214.69.

Details of the groups requesting funding were set out in the report together with an outline of what schemes the groups were proposing that the grant would be utilised for.

Decision

That the grant awards below totalling £2,349.00 be approved: -

Manor West Youth Project - A contribution of £1,449.00 towards the cost of swimming sessions.

Hartlepool and District Dyspraxia Support Group - A contribution of £900 to contribute towards staff costs and venue hire

9. Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations *(Head of Community Safety and Prevention)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report advised Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and sought approval for the recommended grant awards.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Council decided that its capital budget for 2007/08 would include an allocation £150,000 to implement community safety projects, which are associated with and contribute to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and drugs. Following an underspend of £3,542 in

2006/07 this had been increased to £153,542.

One application for grant was reported to Members.

Tankerville Street/Milton Road

On 25th January 2007 the Grants Committee received a request for the sum of £55,000 to upgrade the transmission system of three existing cameras together with the upgrade of one existing camera, as well as the installation of a new camera at the junction of Milton Road and Tankerville Street. The total project cost was set at £131,000 with match funding of £76,000 to be provided by NDC. Members were supportive of the upgrading element - £35,000 – but deferred a decision on the new camera element - £20,000.

On 12th March it was agreed that a sum of £6,000 be allocated from financial year 2006/07 with the remaining £14,000 forthcoming from budget year 2007/8, if funding was available, to enable the project to be finalised. The NDC partnership had approved their full contribution to the project.

It was now confirmed that the new installation project cost remained at £20,000 and the additional £14,000 was required to enable progression and completion.

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Decision

That the grant award of £14,000 toward CCTV provision in Tankerville Street and Milton Road be approved.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 26th July 2007

GRANTS COMMITTEE

24 September 2007

Report of: Director of Adult and Community Services

Subject: CIVIC LOTTERY FUND

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Grants Committee consideration of the future of the Civic Lottery fund and the specific request of the General Purposes Sub-Committee to seek amendment of the 'approved purposes' of the Civic Lottery criteria to enable repair and maintenance of the town's Civic Regalia.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides a short history of the Civic Lottery and its current 'approved purposes' of use. Members have previously requested a review of the Lottery Fund with a view to its cessation and this report provides preliminary discussion on the future of the Lottery Fund.

The General Purposes Committee have requested that consideration be given to an amendment of the current guidelines to include the potential for repair of the town's historic Civic Regalia.

3. RELEVANCE TO GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Civic Lottery Fund and award of grants is the responsibility of the Grants Committee.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee – 24th September 2007

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That the request of the General Purposes Sub-Committee be approved.

The Civic Lottery Fund cease and considerations be given to the disbursement of the Capital Fund.

That the preferred course of action be: -

- i) The repair of the Civic Regalia
- i) The transfer of the capital balance into a specific strategic reserve
- ii) Options to be agreed and consultation to be undertaken by View point 1000.

That the Secretary of State be approached with a view to securing consent for the Grants Committees decision.

Report of: Director of Community Services

Subject: CIVIC LOTTERY FUND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Grants Committee consideration of the future of the Civic Lottery fund and the specific request of the General Purposes Committee to seek amendment of the 'approved purposes' of the Civic Lottery criteria to enable repair and maintenance of the town's Civic Regalia.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Civic Lottery was promoted by the Council between 1977 and 1982, the original objects being for leisure, recreational and environmental projects. This was amended to include provision of grants to local charitable organisations by the Secretary of State on the 4th December 1989.
- 2.2 A history of the Civic Lottery and the guidelines under which the Grant Committee disburse funding is provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 At the meeting of the Grants Committee held on the 3rd July 2002, Members agreed that they wished the Civic Lottery scheme to be reviewed with a view to it ceasing. Officers had begun to examine this although it had proved challenging.
- 2.4 At the meeting on the 26th March 2003 the Chief Solicitor circulated a report outlining the legal requirements regarding future administration of the Civic Lottery fund (copy attached at **Appendix 2**).
- 2.5 Members were requested to give further guidance to Officers on the nature of the proposal to form the basis of negotiations with the Secretary of State. This included the intention to close the Lottery Fund and disburse the outstanding fund, in line with existing guidelines, to a project which would ensure benefit across the town for a large number of citizens.

- 2.6 This course of action has yet to be pursued, meanwhile the Grants Committee sought and obtained Mayoral Executive portfolio approval for the Civic Lottery Fund interest to be disbursed in its entirety thus creating a 'closed fund' which reduces in value year on year. The current value of the Civic Lottery Fund stands at £411,000.00. Over the four years 2003/04 – 2006/07 the total paid out as amounted to £30,000 and has earned interest of £69,000, the value of the fund over the last four years has therefore increased from £372,000 at 31st March 2003 to £411,000 at 31st March 2007.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The approved guidelines for grants from the Civic Lottery Fund were last amended in 1989.
- 3.2 The General Purposes Committee on the 29th June 2007, considered the Council's draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/2007 and expressed concern that the balance of the Civic lottery fund had increased. Members of the General Purposes Committee therefore determined that they wished officers to explore extending the type of expenditure which can be funded from the Civic Lottery Fund to include repairs to Civic Regalia. In addition the Regalia Committee have also supported this request to the Grants Committee. As this Committee has responsibility for managing the Civic Lottery Fund this proposal is being brought to this Committee for consideration. If this proposal is agreed this would allow an increased percentage of the Civic Regalia to be displayed within the Civic Centre to residents and visitors alike.
- 3.3 Members will also need to consider re-affirmation of the desire to close the Civic Lottery Fund, whilst this was recommended at the Grants Committee on the 26th March 2003, the manner and use of the capital funds to ensure benefit to as large a number of residents as possible has never been concluded. The original intention being to produce a shortlist of ideas and to then undertake resident consultation to assist in determining a preferred course of action.
- 3.4 The original reason for considering termination of the Civic Lottery Fund was due to the small level of interest payments generated which then took a disproportionate amount of officer time to administer and bring to the Grants Committee for consideration and decision.
- 3.5 Members had recognised that this was an inefficient process and that awarding of small grants up to a maximum of £500 was rarely anything other than a fundraising contribution for the applicant group.
- 3.6 In considering this request, Members of the Grants Committee will appreciate that approval in principle would then require formal application to the Secretary of State for consent.

- 3.6 Members recognised that this was not an efficient process and that the end result of small grants upto a maximum of £500 was rarely anything other than a contribution to applicant group fundraising.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That Members consider the expansion of the current guidelines to specifically include the maintenance and restoration of the Civic Regalia.
- 4.2 In view of the time which has lapsed since the Grant Committee's initial considerations and in order that the matter can be progressed, Members are requested to give consideration to re-affirming the previous decision of the Committee – i.e. the review and closure of the Civic Lottery fund.
- 4.3 In the event that Members seek to cease the Civic Lottery Fund, guidance is required to determine which options should be pursued further, namely: -
1. An increase in the level of annual disbursement which would see the capital fund used up more rapidly. Whatever annual sum is asked for disbursement would continue to mean relatively small grant (upto £500) disbursements for at least fifteen years this would not achieve any the efficiencies intended.
 2. Amendment to 'guidelines' to incorporate approval to utilise the fund for the repair of the Civic Regalia. If this was achieved a finite sum would be expended immediately thus achieving the objective whilst leaving a capital balance.
 3. Identification of a valid project from within the existing guidelines and a capital contribution to made towards that approved objective. The underlying principle being one that would over time, give benefit to a large number of residents.
 4. The conversion of the remaining Civic Lottery Fund into a capital contingency reserve to be used for a future capital development of a leisure, recreational or environmental nature, for e.g.
 - H2O Centre / Indoor Sports Strategy Facilities
 - Maritime Festival Events
 - Afforestation and Greening of Hartlepool
- 4.4 The recipient project could be identified by consultation through View point 1000 which is a balanced demographic profile of Hartlepool residents.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the request of the General Purposes Sub-Committee be approved.
- 5.2 The Civic Lottery Fund cease and consideration be given to the future disbursement of the Capital Fund.
- 5.3 That the preferred course of action be: -
 - i) the repair of the Civic Regalia
 - ii) the transfer of the capital balance into a specific strategic reserve
 - iii) options to be agreed and selection via consultation through View point 1000.
- 5.4 That the Secretary of State be approached with a view to securing consent in support of the Grants Committee's decision.

Appendix 1

CIVIC LOTTERY GRANT APPLICATIONS - GUIDELINESBackground

The Chief Solicitor advises me that pursuant to Section 7 of the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, a local authority may promote a local lottery for any purposes, and in doing so must give such publicity to the objects of the local lottery as will be likely to bring them to the attention of persons purchasing tickets or chances, these objects are then reflected in the eligibility criteria. The authority are under a duty to apply the money accruing from the lottery (including interest) only to the objects of the lottery being that for which the lottery was promoted - as extended by the Secretary of State.

From 1977-1982 a Civic Lottery was promoted by this Council, and a Civic Lottery Fund was established, the original object being for leisure recreational or environmental projects. There is provision in the legislation under Section 7(4) for the consent of the Secretary of State to be given to the appropriation of lottery funds to purposes outside the consent, for an amendment in the Council lottery, to include the provision of grants to local charitable organisations, and on the 4th December 1989 the said consent was granted. Any further departure from the current criteria would require similar consent.

Current Criteria

The current eligibility criteria for assistance from the Civic Lottery Fund is therefore as follows:-

Any application must be for either leisure, recreational or environmental projects, and following approval by the Secretary of State in December, 1989, it is now also possible for charitable organisations to qualify for assistance.

Applicants must be based in the Borough of Hartlepool.

Applicants should be either organisations or individuals supported by a club/organisation.

The Grants Committee to consider applications for assistance 3 times during the year in order that an overall view of applications can be obtained.

Restrict the maximum amount of grant allocated to £500.

Restrict applicants to applying for assistance only once every 12 months.

That grants must be claimed within one year of their approval.

Members to assess each application on its merit.

- 2 -

At present senior citizens clubs receive grants for either a summer outing or Christmas party (not both) subject to funds being available based on the number of Members in their club:-

15 - 20 Members - £20
21 - 40 Members - £40
41 - 60 Members - £50
Over 61 Members - £70

At the meeting of the Community Support Sub-Committee held on 30th July 1996 the following additional criteria for community groups was approved.

Criteria for specific activities such as team activities, including football, netball and jazz bands.

- i) Teams must comprise a majority of residents from areas of disadvantage as identified by the 1991 Census.
- ii) Grants of up to £200 per team or band up to a maximum of £300 per group may be awarded as a contribution towards running costs. These costs are likely to include pitch and league fees and transport.
- iii) Grant aid should not be used to establish new teams.
- iv) Applications for equipment will not be supported, as other funders can offer support to teams who are requesting grant aid to purchase strips, nets, balls etc.

5.1 Appendix 2

GRANTS COMMITTEE

26 March, 2003



Report of: Chief Solicitor

Subject: CIVIC LOTTERY FUND

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee of the legal requirements regarding future administration of the Civic Lottery Fund.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides details of the provisions of the statutory provisions relating to Civic Lotteries.

3. RELEVANCE TO THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for determining these grant applications funded from the Civic Lotteries Fund.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

No decision proposed

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

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6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

-

Grants Committee - 26 March, 2003

Report of: Chief Solicitor

Subject: CIVIC LOTTERY FUND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the legal requirements regarding future administration of the Civic Lottery Fund.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Civic Lotteries Fund, was generated some years ago by a public lottery promoted by the Council for particular purposes, reflected in the criteria laid down for grant applications.
- 2.2 The legislation (Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, enabled local authorities to promote such lotteries for any purposes for which the authority had power to incur expenditure. The Act imposed the upon the Council the duty to apply money accruing from the lottery only to the purpose or purposes for which the Council promoted the lottery.
- 2.3 However, that restriction was qualified by the ability of the Secretary of State to consent to the use of money accruing from a local lottery for a purpose suggested by the authority if the Secretary of State is satisfied -
- (a) that the purpose of the lottery has been fulfilled or cannot now be carried out, or
 - (b) that the purpose provides a use for part only of the money accruing from the lottery, or
 - (c) that the fund can be better used in conjunction with other monies applicable for similar purposes, or
 - (d) that the purpose of the lottery was to benefit a particular area that no longer exists., or
 - (e) that the purpose of the lottery is now adequately provided for by other means or has ceased to be a suitable and effective use of the fund.
- 2.4 If the Secretary of State approves the alternative use, then Council would then be under a duty to use the fund for the approved alternative use.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That this report be noted.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

24 September 2007



Report of: Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY CAPITAL GRANTS
ALLOCATIONS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek approval for recommended grant awards.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Proposed awards for the Community Safety Capital fund are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Lynnfield School Play Area	£28,000
Thomton Street Linear Park	£65,000
Hartlepool Business Security Fund	£20,000
Social Lighting	£20,000
CCTV	£20,000

This results in an overspend of £13,458

3. RELEVANCE TO THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

Grants Committee has responsibility for determining the levels of grant awarded.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non - Key

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee on 24th September 2007

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members of the Grants Committee are requested:

To consider approval of grant awards to five projects totalling no more than £139,542

Report of: Head of Community Safety and Prevention

**Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY CAPITAL GRANTS
ALLOCATIONS**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek approval for recommended grant awards.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council has decided that its capital budget for 2007/08 would include an allocation £150,000 to implement community safety projects which are associated with and contribute to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and drugs. Following an underspend of £3,542 in 2006/07, this has been increased by £3,542 to £153,542.

The Safer Hartlepool strategy comprises seven primary objectives based on:

- Drugs treatment
- Acquisitive crime (covering burglary, theft and vehicle crime)
- Domestic Violence
- Violence in the Town Centre associated with alcohol
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Reassurance (fear of crime)
- Prevention of offending

The Community Services and Safety Board at its meeting in August 2000, approved criteria against which to judge project proposals as follows:

1. Clearly identify the link to Action Plans for each objective
2. Outline the problem and proposals to remedy it
3. Identify the cost and contribution from the Department budget
4. Include an approximate timescale for implementation
5. Include further information which is appropriate for officers/members to know about

Matched funding of between 20% and 50% is generally requested.
All projects are considered first by the Community Safety Officer Group – which comprises senior officer representatives from all Council Departments.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Community Safety Capital Fund in total for 2007/2008 is £153,542. On 17 July 2007, Grants Committee awarded a grant to the total of £14,000 from the Community Safety Capital Fund. This leaves a total of £139,542

4. APPLICATIONS

4.1 Lynnfield School Play Area

This project will purchase and install CCTV, improve lighting and install alleygates as part of a broader package that will create a safe play area on Lynnfield School site and improve security to surrounding neighbouring streets and houses. The provision of a safe play area is also intended to reduce anti-social behaviour in surrounding streets by providing local children with a safe area to play.

Lynnfield School was the first school in town to pilot the highly successful COOL (Community Organised Outdoor Leisure) project that has now been rolled out across many of the town's schools and the current project seeks to build on the success of initiatives such as COOL through provision of a purpose built play area and multi-use games area within the school's grounds that will be accessible to local children and their parents.

Once up and running and fully operational, it is the intention that the school site will benefit from Play Rangers to supervise activities on the school field. However, current crime and disorder trends and consultation with the community on the proposed play area, has also highlighted the need for additional security both on the school field and surrounding homes. Particular problems on the school site in recent times include the gathering of youths drinking alcohol and creating disturbance to local residents and incidents of criminal damage. A site meeting with the local police team Sergeant, the Neighbourhood Manager, the Crime Prevention Officer and Head Teacher resulted in the identification of need for the above security measures. This was followed up by a further site visit with the NDC Crime Prevention Officer, HBC CCTV Officer and Street Lighting Engineer to examine the feasibility of installing CCTV in the school grounds and the provision of additional lighting along with an alleygating scheme.

Through the provision of CCTV and lighting on the site, and alleygating and fencing to the rear of houses on the perimeter of the site, the project will create a safer environment for children to play and increase security and feelings of safety for those in the neighbouring houses. The project will contribute to the following community safety strategic objectives:

- Reduce acquisitive crime in Hartlepool with particular focus on high crime areas
- Reduce alcohol related nuisance, disorder and violence linked to the night time economy in the town centre area

- Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour
- Promote reassurance by increasing numbers feeling safe outside after dark

Under the New Deal for Communities Programme this area has benefited from a range of initiatives aimed at reducing crime and disorder and reassuring the local community. The Neighbourhood Policing Programme has increased the amount of police resources coming into the area and NDC Community Wardens provide an additional patrolling presence. Through the co-location project at York Road these teams have been able to provide a co-ordinated response to the high levels of crime and disorder in the area through the pooling of resources and the use of joint patrols. In addition, the NDC Crime Prevention Officer, Victim Support Worker and Anti-Social Behaviour Officer will continue to be active in this area offering home security and practical and emotional support to victims of crime and disorder. The police and other agencies are satisfied that there is no risk of displacement in this area. It is envisaged that the use of the school site as a leisure facility will reduce anti-social behaviour in the surrounding residential area.

The NDC Neighbourhood Action Plan identifies the development of the Lynnfield School play area and tackling anti-social behaviour as key community priorities. Further consultation with residents, children from the school and surrounding area and agencies has resulted in a detailed plan for a play area that has been submitted to the one stop shop for planning applications.

Financial Implications

The total cost of the project is £140,000 for the play area MUGA plus the following additional security elements:

CCTV	£20,000
Lighting	£8,000
Alley gates	£8,500

NDC contribution: £148,500, this includes £8,500 towards the security elements associated with the scheme as highlighted above.

Community Safety Capital Fund contribution: £28,000

Neighbourhood Services have been involved in the development of this initiative and will be responsible under their current contract with the school for the upkeep and maintenance of the play area. NDC will pay for two years monitoring and maintenance costs of the CCTV (as agreed with HBC CCTV Officer, £4000 is also included in the total cost of the NDC funds for monitoring and maintenance of the camera over a two year period). Neighbourhood Services will be responsible for the future maintenance of the alley gates and lighting.

Members need to consider:

- the implications for monitoring more cameras, bearing in mind there are already 70 cameras on the existing system.
- The implications of Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act in relation to potential future problems if the scheme was not supported by funding.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider approving a grant of £28,000 to the project.

4.2 Thornton Street Linear Park

Part of the physical regeneration of Central Hartlepool includes the development and implementation of a Community Housing Plan in the New Deal for Communities area. This plan includes initiatives aimed at tackling low demand housing, crime and anti-social behaviour and the need for environmental green space in the area. Chief among these initiatives, in a prime location in the centre of town, and adjacent to the Middleton Grange shopping centre is the creation of a linear park on the North side of Thornton Street. The plans include the removal of void and derelict properties which have been the source of anti-social behaviour, and investment in existing housing, the overall aim of the initiative being to stabilise the area, return it to its former Edwardian glory and create a safe, clean and green living environment.

Detailed plans for the park and surrounding streets are mindful of the need to design out crime and have been enhanced to include a number of improved security measures aimed at preventing crime and disorder and increasing residents' and visitors' perceptions around feeling safe in the area. These measures include the following:

- Lighting in the park
- Supply and installation of alleygates to adjacent rear alleyways
- New Gable end walls erected (currently seven gables will be exposed to the park and residents living in these properties have requested a 2.8m wall be erected approximately one/two metres away from the current gable to protect property and provide protection to street ends).
- Park railings and gates
- Prickly plants
- CCTV

Thornton Street is in the heart of Stranton Ward which consistently experiences higher levels of crime and disorder when compared to other areas of the town. Consequently, in order to prevent crime and disorder in and around the park and reassure local residents and visitors it is considered necessary by both residents and agencies, including the police to implement the aforementioned security measures.

- Reduce acquisitive crime in Hartlepool with particular focus on high crime areas
- Reduce alcohol related nuisance, disorder and violence linked to the night time economy in the town centre area
- Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour

- Promote reassurance by increasing numbers feeling safe outside after dark

Under the New Deal for Communities Programme the immediate surrounding area has benefited from alleygating, improved street lighting and CCTV. The Neighbourhood Policing Programme has increased the amount of police resources coming into the area and NDC Community Wardens provide an additional patrolling presence. Through the co-location project at York Road these teams have been able to provide a co-ordinated response to the high levels of crime and disorder in the area through the pooling of resources and the use of joint patrols. In addition, the NDC Crime Prevention Officer, Victim Support Worker and Anti-Social Behaviour Officer will continue to be active in this area offering home security and practical and emotional support to victims of crime and disorder.

This initiative has been the subject of intense community consultation. Both the NDC Community Housing Plan and the recent NDC Neighbourhood Action Plan highlight community safety and the linear park as priorities for the local community. Plans for the park were approved by HBC Planning Committee in February 2007. The Police Crime Prevention Officer, local Neighbourhood Police Team, Wardens, HBC CCTV Officer and NDC ASB Officer have all been consulted and support the plans with appropriate security measures.

Financial Implications

Total cost of Linear Park:	£750,000
NDC contribution:	£630,00
HBC contribution (Highways)	£60,000
Community Safety Capital Fund	£65,000

The Head of Neighbourhood Management has agreed that HBC Neighbourhood Services will be responsible for the overall maintenance of the Park, including lighting. Alleygates will be maintained under existing standard arrangements i.e. the commuted sum. If CCTV goes ahead an additional £8,000 on top of the £630,000 will be provided by NDC towards future maintenance.

Members need to consider:

- the implications for monitoring more cameras, bearing in mind there are already 70 cameras on the existing system.
- The implications of Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act in relation to potential future problems if the scheme was not supported by funding.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider approval of a grant of £65,000 to the project.

4.3 **Hartlepool Business Security Fund**

The Business Security Grant scheme has been running for a number of years and has been successful in assisting small businesses vulnerable to crime to secure their premises.

Commercial crime is a major problem that the Hartlepool business community faces and if the appropriate measures are not taken to address the problem it can have detrimental effects such as businesses closing down or moving out of Hartlepool, taking with them much needed jobs and investment.

This is especially the case for smaller businesses, either new start or existing, that have tight financial margins and cannot raise sufficient resources to protect their premises by fitting the required security equipment. Without the assistance provided by the grant they are left vulnerable to crime and have to face the financial consequences if their premises are hit.

The project will involve the provision of grant assistance to manufacturing and related service sector businesses undertaking security works to their sites and premises. The project will concentrate on the industrial estates along Brenda Road and will specifically exclude the NDC area that has its own scheme.

Businesses will be able to apply for up to 50% of the cost of security installations to a maximum of £2,500. The Crime Prevention Officer from Hartlepool Police will visit the businesses and advise on the type and quality of equipment.

Types of crime prevention measures include:

- CCTV systems – monitored
- Alarm systems – monitored
- Security fencing
- Roller shutters
- Security doors
- Window grilles
- Security lighting

The project will contribute to the following Community Safety Strategic Objectives:

- Acquisitive crime – to reduce acquisitive crime in Hartlepool
- Anti-Social Behaviour – to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to communities
- Reassurance – to promote reassurance in all sections of the community

The project links in with the 'Hartlepool Business Watch' scheme that has invited business throughout Hartlepool to be part of the e mail system of disseminating crime information. There has been a 'sweep' of all the businesses along Brenda Road to get them signed up to this email service.

Further links are with the Acquisitive Crime Task Group where commercial crime is a standing agenda item and various crime prevention activities have been identified as part of the action plan. The assistance of the grants has been identified as one particular intervention.

The scheme has been running for a number of years and has always received a great deal of demand from local businesses. In most years the budget available has not been enough to satisfy the demand.

Evaluation surveys are undertaken with the businesses who have received grant and in general after undertaking crime prevention measures to their premises they are less likely to be a victim of crime.

There are strong working links with Hartlepool Police especially the Crime Prevention Officer in tackling vandalism and burglary targeted at businesses. In the majority of cases where businesses have been hit the level of security has been poor or non-existent, the CPO then refers the businesses to us for assistance.

Financial Implications

Total cost of project:	£80,000
HBC Economic Development:	£20,000
Private Sector	£40,000
HBC Community Safety	£20,000

The grant is a one-off and will enable the businesses to install the various security measures to their premises. The ongoing maintenance and any repairs including upgrades and further security measures will be undertaken by the businesses themselves.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider approval of a grant of £20,000 to the project

4.4 Social Lighting

There are various locations throughout the Borough where there is inadequate or no public/street lighting and little prospect of the provision of any, in particular in back streets and on urban footpaths. These areas provide opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour and many residents in these areas already suffer because of this.

Successful applications have been made over the past years when funding of £10,000 and £20,000 has been allocated for the establishment of the social lighting programme which have proved to be very successful and popular with those residents who have benefited from them.

The monies have been used to implement schemes in various locations throughout the Borough in areas that had been highlighted as having reported crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Council has adopted, in partnership, a Community Safety Plan and improvements to street lighting in the selected areas will be specifically to target crime and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and help with CCTV installations.

The installation of new lighting seeks to deter crime and reduce the fear of crime in actual and perceived blackspots including alleyways, footpaths, open spaces and other public areas. Street lighting is one of a range of projects designed to tackle crime along with other projects such as the CCTV and Community Wardens.

Potential sites are drawn from the following sources:

- Elected Members
- Parish Councils
- Analysis of requests already received by the Public Lighting Section from residents
- Referrals from Police
- Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators
- NDC Officers

The cost of installing a street lighting column varies greatly dependant on its proposed position and the proximity of an electricity supply so each individual proposal would need to be assessed separately. In general, the maximum cost of a fully serviced column is £1,000

Financial Implications

Total cost of application: £20,000

There is no matched funding for the installation but the maintenance will be incorporated into the street lighting budget. The purpose of the programme is to provide lighting in areas where no funding would ever be likely to be available.

The Public Lighting Service would include all additional columns into its maintenance programme, which includes inspections, repairs, and energy costs with each new column being added to the current asset register.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider approval of a grant of £20,000 to the project.

4.5 CCTV

HBC Community CCTV scheme has grown substantially over the past few years providing principally, cameras undertaking the surveillance of public space in a considerable number of locations through the Town. The scheme has an objective and has been successful in the overall drive to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

The scheme has in excess of 80 cameras which are operational 24 hours per day, 365 days per year with images from all cameras being recorded in full digital format. The majority of cameras are monitored on a live basis at a CCTV Control Centre which is linked directly to Cleveland Police HQ Control Room.

In addition, some cameras are only monitored through a periodic dial-up connection or upon intruder alarm activation. In both cases operators will take live control of the camera as appropriate. These cameras also record images on a 24/7 basis.

New camera installation is funded by:

- Central Government initiatives within specific crime reduction strategies. The likelihood of future funding from this source is minimal
- Partner lead, e.g. New Deal for Communities, north Hartlepool Partnership etc, in support of any available HBC capital support. Again, the capital budgets for these partners are now fully committed

The scheme has substantial mainstream revenue funding from HBC which includes repair/maintenance, power and transmission service charges, monitoring etc. This budget is in excess of £135k although partners do make a contribution. Nevertheless the budget is extremely tight and does not afford flexibility for major camera replacement through major failure and or life expiration.

It has been identified that several cameras require full replacement or mid-term refurbishment, which is a capital rather than revenue budgetary expense. The current revenue budget does not afford adequate flexibility to progress these needs. Other funding sources which could be approached for support have now been fully exhausted and the only option, were funding not available, would be to decommission those or other cameras.

The scheme dovetails into the overall strategy of reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, through the live detection and monitoring of incidents, to support of partner activities, as well as providing recorded images to support investigation of all levels of criminal and anti-social behaviour incidents. In addition, the cameras are an invaluable tool in reducing public fear of crime as evidenced by numerous requests from the public and elected members for the installation of new cameras to address localised issues and from feedback at public meetings and consultation.

Many projects have recommended and progressed the installation of CCTV cameras as part of their security. Such deployment has been linked with HBC and police management of town-wide locations as one of a wide range of actions designed to tackle/reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Whilst many projects have benefited from on site CCTV camera deployment, the installation not only provides security for the actual project but is able to afford a wider degree of community safety and confidence by its monitoring programme and partnership linkages to other CCTV camera systems be they HBC or other ownership, e.g. Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

There is regular dialogue on CCTV with main partners such as Cleveland Police, Housing Hartlepool, New Deal for Communities and, until recent cessation, North Hartlepool Partnership. In addition there is ongoing dialogue with private business sector representatives such as Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

CCTV is much to the fore in all Hartlepool Borough Council and Cleveland Police public consultations which ensures that the benefits and actual delivery performance of cameras are outlined at every relevant opportunity. These often feed into specific working groups such as J.A.G.s, Neighbourhood Policing priority plans and visual audits. In addition specific working groups e.g. Hartlepool N.D.C. Safer Homes and Streets fully ensure that consultation is as widespread as possible with all sectors.

There are strong working links with Cleveland Police Hartlepool Command in all aspects of CCTV. As well as regular meetings with Senior Management Team Officers, there is a designated CCTV link officer. Of recent a Police Officer has been seconded to H.B.C. CCTV Control Centre to support monitoring and specific operations.

Financial Implications

This application is for a sum of £20,000.

This will support the capital refurbishment of CCTV cameras, and supporting operational equipment which will ensure their ongoing operation.

There is no direct match funding for this programme but the ongoing maintenance and operation will be incorporated into overall CCTV budgets.

The cost of purchasing and installing a new camera head, including labour, is in the region of £4,000. Replacement of other parts of the installation i.e. data boards, transmission etc. can vary dependent on what parts actually require renewal. Ensuring compatibility of new parts with existing is paramount to ensure that further equipment operation is not compromised and can, therefore, increase overall cost.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider approval of a grant of £20,000 to the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to approve grant awards to five projects totalling no more than £139,542

To decide upon amounts to be deducted from approved applications in order to avoid budget deficit.

CONTACT OFFICER: **Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Coordinator**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Applications to Section 17 Officer Group