

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

18 December 2007

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (In the Chair)

Councillors The Mayor and Victor Tumilty

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Susan Rybak, Community Resource Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

16. Apologies for Absence

None

17. Declarations of interest by members

None

18. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2007

Agreed

19. 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:-

- applications where no previous grants had been awarded.

- applications where grants had previously been awarded

Members were advised that the amount of grant applications made came to a total of £31,717.28. However the balance available for this tranche was only £8579.32. Members considered each application in turn and rejected applications from the following organisations

- Wordlab
- Manor Residents Association (Members suggested they contact Pride in Hartlepool for possible funding assistance)
- ORCEL Sea Training (Members queried the amount of funding the organisation would be providing themselves)
- Hartlepool Young People's Music Consortium
- Eldon Grove Tennis Club
- Hartlepool Camera Club
- West End Residents Association
- Walking Tall
- Hartlepool Blind Welfare Association (Members suggested this be put on hold pending consideration of alternative sources of funding)
- Headland Development Trust

Decision

The following allocation of grants was approved:-

3269	Synergy Media	500
3272	Sweet Art Group	300
3296	Grass Route Solutions	300
3298	Owton Rossmere Community Enterprise Ltd	600
3283	Owton Lodge Ladies Bowling Club	500
3292	Hartlepool & East Durham Stoma Support Group	500
3299	Hartlepool Chester Boys FC	450
3266	Belle Vue Endeavour OAP Club	182*
3242	Hartlepool Catholic Boxing and Community Police Club	1,000*
3258	The Liners	60*
3249	G.E.C. (Hartlepool) Retirement Club	100*
3278	Greatham Dance Club	100*
3284	Hartlepool Coastwatch	329*
3288	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group	500*
3281	Hartlepool Flamingos	500*
3287	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir	500*
3300	Hartlepool and East Durham Alzheimers Trust	500*
3291	Hartlepool Snooker Centre Sunday League	1,000*
3282	High Flyers Trampoline Group	329*
3305	Preston Simpson Scholarship in Music	329*

(* Organisations that have previously received Civic Lottery Grants)

20. 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. Requests for revenue funding from the Community Pool from 10 voluntary/community groups for a 1 year grant and 1 request for a 3 year tapered grant
- iii. The current situation relating to the funding of 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. At the meeting of the Grants Committee on 12th March 2007 grants had been awarded to 23 groups totalling £376,003. leaving a balance of £166,764. Included within these commitments was £4,000 for Directed Lettings.

At a further meeting on 16th July 2007 awards totalling £3,219 were approved from this Directed Lettings allocation, allowing for the balance of £781 to be added back into the main budget. Therefore the balance of funding remaining available for distribution for 2007/08 now stands at £167,545.

Applications for funding had been received from 11 groups. Details of these and the accompanying recommendations were provided in an appendix to the report. The applications were broken down into those recommended for approval and those not recommended for approval as they fell outside of the funding criteria.

Officers recommended the approval of a one year revenue grant to the following organisations as a contribution towards the core costs of the organisation, including salary costs of key staff, rent and utilities for the period December 2007-March 2008. Some of the groups had already benefited from a grant from the Community Pool for 2007/08. However they were now seeking additional support as they had budget shortfalls and all but one has no reserves to contribute towards their shortfalls:

- Hartlepool Access Group £5,000

- Owton Fens Community Association £5,000
- The Wharton Trust £5,000
- Hartlepool Families First £10,000

In addition 3 groups which had not previously received financial support from the Community Pool had also requested a 1 year revenue grant and were recommended for funding as follows

Hartlepool Catholic Boxing Club

Hartlepool Catholic Boxing Club had been established more than 50 years and has over 100 members, many who live in disadvantaged areas of Hartlepool. Until recently they were based at the Bridge Community Centre but have been forced to find alternative accommodation because of the closure of the Centre. They had successfully secured accommodation to meet their needs within a refurbished building in Cromwell Street that had been suitably fitted out. However the rental costs were proving challenging in comparison to what they paid previously at the Bridge. Membership charges had been increased but as most of their members were young people this had to be gradual so as not to exclude some who could not afford the increases. They had applied to other funders but it had become apparent that funding for equipment could be secured more readily than funding for core costs. Therefore they were applying to the Community Pool for grant aid to help toward the rental costs of their new premises for December 2007-March 2008. This would enable the group to concentrate their efforts on fundraising for the new financial year. Officers recommended a grant of £5,000.

RESPECT

RESPECT (Reach Every Social Personal Effect Concerning Teenagers) is a local organisation offering social emotional and personal support to young people by providing a mentoring and befriending service with counselling support. They applied to the Community Pool for funding in the first round of applications for 2007/08 but this was rejected as they were benefiting from funding from New Deal for Communities at the time. Also it was felt there were more appropriate sources of funding such as the Children's Services Department. However Children's Services had not been forthcoming with an offer of financial support and consequently the group had found itself in financial difficulties without sufficient funding to sustain their services until the new financial year. . Children's Services officers and representative from other voluntary sector groups had been working with RESPECT to secure funding for 2008/09 onwards to secure the long-term viability of the group but unless core costs could be funding to March 2008 RESPECT would cease to operate. Officers recommended a grant of £8,000 which would include the salary costs of a Counselling Clinical Supervisor and a Support Worker.

Hart Gables

Hart Gables provides services for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Trans-

Gendered (LGBT) community in Hartlepool. They provide a safe meeting environment and offer support, information and assistance, including awareness raising and health promotion. They applied to the Community Pool after an application to Hartlepool PCT Core Costs fund was rejected. Funding would allow them to maintain the number of hours that the Manager currently works to the end of the financial year and to employ a Finance Officer for 7 hours per month. Otherwise the Manager's hours would have to be reduced and the provision of services could be affected. Officers recommended a grant of £5,000 which would include the salary costs of the Manager and Finance Officers posts.

Four applications for funding from the following organisations were not recommended for approval:

- Adventure Youth Sea Training Trust
- West View Advice and Resource Centre
- Hartlepool Community Studio

The Assistant Director advised Members that a further application from the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency, recommended for rejection by officers, had been withdrawn prior to this meeting.

Should all the applications recommended for approval be approved the remaining balance of the Community Pool available for 2007/08 would be £124,045. It was recommended that any remaining balance of the Community Pool following this meeting and any further additional meetings in this financial year be carried forward to the 2008/9 budget.

The Princess Royal Lifeboat Trust

At the Grants Committee meeting on 16th July 2007 Members deferred an application for funding from the Princess Royal Lifeboat Trust for a 3-year tapered grant of £6,683 for berthing and insurance costs, health and safety certificates, training and fuel and oil expenses of the Princess Royal Lifeboat. Officers recommended rejection of the application but Members requested that the application be deferred to enable a review of the financial status of the Trust to identify any match funding that they may have successfully secured. Officers reported that the trust had secured financial support to keep the boat moored in the Marina until such a time that it could be moved onto dry land. Officers from Culture and Heritage were also supporting the Trust by establishing a plan for the future of the vessel. Therefore officers continued to recommend rejection of the Trust's application to the Community Pool.

Decision

1. That the current Financial Position in relation to the 2007/2008 Community Pool budget as detailed in the report be noted

2. That grant aid to those organisations detailed in the report be approved
3. That applications from West View Advice and Resource Centre, Adventure Youth Sea Training Trust and Hartlepool Community Studio, as detailed in the report be rejected
4. That information provided in relation to The Princess Royal Lifeboat Trust and rejection of the application presented to a previous meeting of the Grants Committee in light of current circumstances be noted
5. That the remaining Community Pool balance at the 31st March 2008 be accrued from 2007/2008 to the 2008/2009 financial year.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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