

# **GRANTS COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

21 July 2008

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Robbie Payne (In the Chair)

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Victor Tumilty.

Officers: Tracy Liveras, Young People and Play Co-ordinator  
Susan Rybak, Community Resource Manager  
Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer  
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **36. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **37. Declarations of interest by Members**

None.

### **38. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2008**

Received.

### **39. Annual Report of the Play Opportunities Pool Awards 2006/2007** *(Director of Children's Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non key.

**Purpose of report**

To provide Members with information regarding grant aid awarded from the Play Opportunities Pool during the 2006/2007 financial year.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Grant aid totalling £21,111.50 was made available annually to community groups and voluntary organisations to enable them to provide play opportunities throughout the year, thereby complementing the Authority's play provision. The provision of play grants also enabled groups to provide play to meet local needs, especially in areas of disadvantage to assist local people on limited incomes.

Grant Awards were 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 12 groups were awarded funding totalling £17,523.73, using the set criteria to provide a wide range of play opportunities across the town. Details of the groups requesting funding were set out in Appendix 2. Grant aid to the voluntary and community sectors was monitored on an annual basis and extracts from the monitoring form from each funded organisation was attached at Appendix 4.

It had become evident through the grant process that more opportunities needed to be developed in local communities with priority for local children accessing provision. Areas identified to support the development of local play opportunities were detailed within the report.

**Decision**

The Annual Report of the Play Opportunities Pool Grant Monitoring Information was noted.

**40. Play Opportunities Pool Award 2008/2009** *(Director of Children's Services)***Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

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

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The Play Opportunities Grant totals £18,000 and was made available to community groups and voluntary organisations to provide play opportunities

throughout the year complementing provision delivered through Children's Centres and Extended Services. At its meeting on 21 April 2008, the Grants Committee approved grant aid to six groups totalling £13,893.80 leaving a balance of £4,106.20.

Information relating to the groups requesting funding was detailed in the report with the following recommendations:

Harbour Support Services – a contribution of £500.00 towards the purchase of equipment and resources for the dedicated play room

Brougham After School and Holiday Club – a contribution of £500.00 towards the cost of transport to be used during the summer holiday club

Hartlepool Young Carers Project – a contribution of £2,000.00 towards the cost of transport and the purchase of equipment and resources for the newly acquired allotment.

A discussion ensued on the viability of organisations integrating their transport requirements and possibly reducing their insurance costs. The Young People and Play Co-ordinator informed Members that the insurance costs incurred by the organisations included buildings and public liability insurance as well as transport and would therefore be difficult to integrated. However, Members were informed that the HVDA worked with organisations to secure the best possible value for money in relation to the insurances required. Members were informed that the Council's Integrated Transport Unit were examining a holistic approach to the commissioning of and access to transport services across the voluntary and community sector.

### **Decision**

That the following grants, as detailed above totalling £3,000 were approved:

Harbour Support Services – £500.00

Brougham After School and Holiday Club – £500.00

Hartlepool Young Carers Project – £2,000.00

## **41. Directed Lettings 2008/2009 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 6 March 2008, to the allocation of funding of £3,500 for Directed Lettings, in 2008/2009 for the hire of premises by voluntary/community groups. Grant aid was targeted towards the groups operating in the most disadvantaged areas.

In addition to the applications received, it was also highlighted that the Council has a legal obligation to provide grant aid to Hart and Elwick Parish Councils at a cost of £440 in total. Consideration was also requested of an additional £20 to be allocated to cover the costs of one meeting of a Parish Council in the 2007/2008 financial year as the charges had not been made in the appropriate financial year. This had resulted in a balance of £179 to be added back to the Community Pool for distribution at future meetings of the Grants Committee.

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 2008/2009
22 <sup>nd</sup> Hartlepool Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	£455
20 <sup>th</sup> Hartlepool Brownie Guides	£600
34 <sup>th</sup> Hartlepool Guides, Brownies, Rainbows	£656
1st Hartlepool Brownie Unit	£290
Hartlepool Youth Choir	£300
Hartlepool Swimming Club	£560
Hart Parish Council	£220
Elwick Parish Council	£220
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,301</b>

Detailed information on the applications was appended to the report.

Clarification was sought on how new groups and organisations were targeted to encourage applications for this grant aid. The Community Resource Manager confirmed that the Directed Lettings grants were targeted only at groups who had previously benefitted from free access to premises but there are alternative sources of funding for other groups to apply to for grant aid. In response to a Member's question, the Community

Resource Manager indicated that despite the location of some of the above groups not being in deprived areas, children from deprived areas did access the groups.

### **Decision**

- (i) The levels of grant as detailed above from the Community Pool Directed Lettings allocation for 2008/2009 were approved.
- (ii) That an additional £20 be deducted from the 2008/2009 budget for expenditure relating to the 2007/08 financial year, the balance of the Directed Lettings allocation, £179 to be added back to the main budget.

## **42. Community Pool** (*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2008/2009.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

A total of nine applications totalling £166,536, including three which were deferred from Round 1, were presented for consideration at this meeting. They included:

### **One year revenue grant applications**

Hartlepool Credit Union Forum  
Manor Residents' Association  
Headland Development Trust  
The Wharton Trust  
Voluntary Wheels

### **Three year revenue tapered funding grants (2008-2011)**

Hartlepool Hospice  
Making a Difference

In addition to the above, two applications from the Adventure Youth Sea

Training Trust and the Association of British Poles were included but not recommended for approval at this time. Details of all applications were included within the report.

Members noted that this was the second time an application from the Adventure Youth Sea Training Trust had been refused. The Community Resource Manager indicated that the Trust had been advised to seek support from Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency to assist them with the implementation of essential policies and procedures and the identification of an appropriate quality standards system which would better equip them for future applications for funding. A discussion ensued on the application from the Hartlepool Credit Union, previously endorsed by Cabinet. Members was noted that the total amount for this application was less than that endorsed by Cabinet and the Community Resource Manager indicated that the original figure included costs that are not considered to be core costs and therefore could not be funded from the Community Pool.

A lengthy discussion took place in relation to the arrangements for the 3-year tapered grants and whether this type of arrangement was still appropriate. Members considered that the 3-year tapered grants were not operating as efficiently as originally intended and suggested that the best way forward may be to approve grants on a 1-year basis only. The Community Resource Manager informed Members that as part of the Voluntary Sector Strategy, a review of the funding of the voluntary sector was being undertaken and that this is likely to lead to a review of the Community Pool.

In relation to the application by Making a Difference, clarification was sought on how this organisation worked alongside the Young People Strategy and the RESPECT (Reaching Every Social personal Effect Concerning Teenagers) organisation. The Community Resource Manager indicated that although the organisations were similar and complemented each other, there were subtle differences, mainly in relation to the practical support, ie access to laundry services, that the Making a Difference organisation provided. Further detailed information on the operational aspects of both organisations and the links to the Young People's Strategy was requested by Members.

Clarification was sought on the Voluntary Wheels application and whether this was a duplication of the earlier discussion in relation to transport under the Play Opportunities funding. The Community Resource Manager indicated that the Play Opportunities initiative could utilise the Voluntary Wheels organisation as a more viable option for transport, ie smaller buses for hire. It was noted that the Voluntary Sector Strategy would explore the possibility of voluntary groups tendering for Council contracts for the provision of their services.

**Decision**

- (i) That the applications for Community Pool funding as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved for 1 year only.
- (ii) That any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk.
- (iii) That the applications for the Adventure Youth Sea Training Trust and the Association of British Poles be rejected.
- (iv) That the balance of the Community Pool £61,604 be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the financial year.
- (v) That further detailed information on the Making a Difference and RESPECT organisations be forwarded to Members for their information.

### **43. Reach Every Social Personal Effect Concerning Teenagers** *(Director Adult and Community Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

To provide details of a request from Reach Every Social Personal Effect Concerning Teenagers (RESPECT) for the immediate release of the second instalment of their 2008/09 award from the Community Pool and the amendment of the original terms of the award.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Due to current financial difficulties, RESPECT had submitted a request for the immediate release of the second instalment of their 2008/09 Community Pool grant and an amendment to the original terms of the award. The report detailed the circumstances of this request and included supporting information received from the Group for Members' consideration.

It was noted that in light of a significant amount of referrals made to this organisation from the Children's Services Department, the organisation were seeking a Service Level Agreement with the local authority for the provision of this service. It was further noted that a newly appointed Treasurer was in place and was providing valuable management support to this organisation.

It was suggested by Members that the organisation may benefit from having a Council representative on its Board and that this could be conditional of the approval of the funding. It was further suggested in the report that the organisation provide regular updates in relation to their financial situation and the execution of their fundraising strategy and Members were keen to receive this information.

**Decision**

- (i) The request from RESPECT for the immediate release of the second instalment of their 2008/09 Community Pool award be approved subject to the inclusion of a Council representative on the RESPECT Board.
- (ii) That the terms and conditions of the original award be amended as detailed in the report.
- (iii) That regular updates be provided to the Grants Committee in relation to the organisation's financial situation and the execution of their fundraising strategy.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm

**PETER DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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