

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

17 November 2008

The meeting commenced at 11.30 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (In the Chair)

Councillor Victor Tumilty and The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Mike Whitfield, Project Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

9. Apologies for Absence

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

10. Declarations of interest by members

None.

11. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2008

These were accepted as an accurate record.

12. Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations (Community Safety Officer)

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

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

Issues for Consideration

The Council had decided that its capital budget for 2008/09 would include an allocation of £150,000 to implement community safety projects, which were associated with and contributed to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and substance misuse. Following an agreement to carry forward an under-spend of £3,717 from 2007/08 this had been increased to £153,717.

Four proposals had been put forward for consideration

St Joseph's Primary School

This school was located in the Burbank area where there have been a number of initiatives to address the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour. Proposals had been considered last year for the installation of CCTV systems in Ward Jackson and St Joseph's primary schools to meet parents and pupils' safety concerns. However because of the fencing at St Joseph's being only 1 metre high, concerns were expressed at that time, that this was not an effective deterrent. Since then, this issue has been addressed with a full fence replacement. The installation of CCTV would cost £6,350 with £3,000 being obtained from the Burbank Forum and therefore the School requested a contribution of £3,350 for the installation of a suitable CCTV system.

Heugh Battery

The Heugh Battery Trust have undertaken a considerable amount of work to create a sustainable centre intended to become a tourist attraction within Hartlepool. Grants have been obtained from the Single Regeneration Budget, Heritage lottery and the Northern Rock Foundation however a CCTV system was requested in order to protect the site as a number of arms are kept on the site. The project costs were £22,960 with a contribution from the Heugh Battery Trust of £8,500 and therefore a grant request of £14,460 had been put forward. This CCTV system would not be monitored live by the Monitoring Centre as there was not currently the capacity to do so.

Dyke House CCTV

There had been a recent escalation of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Gray and Grainger Street areas. It was proposed to install a fixed CCTV camera at the junction of Turnbull and Gray Streets to provide monitoring by the Authority's CCTV Control Centre and to upgrade an existing fixed CCTV camera at the junction of Raby and Middleton Roads from the present dial up operation to full monitoring capability. These would be co-ordinated through the installation of a transmission hub at Mill House Leisure Centre which would reduce installation costs normally associated for transmission fibres. The projected cost of this would be £22,950 with a contribution from the Authority's Community Safety department of £8,050 and therefore a grant of £14,900 had been requested. The Chair queried whether the installation would merely displace any problems to a different location

and was informed that the installation of the hub would mean that there was a degree of mobility for the camera.

Rossmere Way Recreation Ground

The St Francis 2000 Football Club was proposing the full fencing of the playing and immediate area of the recreation ground with a secure 2.2 metre high mesh fence and had been through a planning process for this. The project cost of this was £35,000 with a contribution from the Authority's Parks and Countryside department and £7,250 from the St Francis 2000 football club and therefore was requesting a grant of £22,750.

It was clarified that all CCTV would be procured at the same time in order to achieve savings in costs.

Decision

The Committee approved:-

£3,350 towards the St Joseph's Primary School project
£14,460 towards the Heugh Battery Trust project
£14,900 towards the Dyke House CCTV project.

The Committee deferred decision on the grant for the project put forward by the St Francis 2000 football club and asked for further clarification on whether it had applied for funding from other sources.

13. Community Pool 2008/09 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to advise Members and sought approval for the level of grant awards to Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations from the Community Pool for 2008/09.

Issues for Consideration

The Community Pool budget originally available for distribution for 2008/ 2009 amounted to £594,867. Following previous funding rounds, the amount left available for distribution was £61,604.

However, as all the applications to the Directed Lettings allocation for 2008/2009 had now been satisfied the balance remaining could now be added back to the main budget. In addition, an award of £10,424 approved by the Grants Committee on 6th March 2008 for the benefit of

Hartlepool Deaf Centre was no longer required and could also be added back to the budget. This meant that the balance remaining available for distribution stood at £72,207.

Applications had been received from :-

Hartlepool Bereavement Services

This was a voluntary organisation established to provide advice, information, emotional and practical support to people in Hartlepool who had been bereaved and had asked for a revenue grant of £9,785 as a contribution towards the salary costs of a part time Bereavement Worker. However as the organisation had not been constituted for two years, Officers were recommending rejection of the application as this did not meet the criteria for the Community Pool. The committee expressed concern and asked that the organisation could be directed towards other sources of funding.

Heugh Gun Battery Trust

The organisation the objectives of which include development of a local historical landmark and the provision of an educational facility to encourage volunteering and regeneration, had applied to the Community Pool for a one year revenue grant of £38,915 to cover the full costs of a new member of staff, a Project Manager. As the Trust did not have any funding in place to support the Project Manager's post a 100% contribution to this post could not be recommended by Officers. Members acknowledged that organisations were usually expected to secure match funding when applying for grants.

Wynyard Café.com

The organisation which was based in the Owton Rossmere Resource Centre to provide healthy food for the community in that area, had applied for a grant of £6,000, made up of a £4,000 contribution to the salary costs of a Cook/Manager and £2,000 towards running costs and rent. It had applied for a three year tapering grant but Officers felt that in light of previous applications for this type of grant, a one year revenue grant should be awarded, although this would not preclude the organisation from applying in future years. Members asked whether this organisation could be monitored to see what uptake there was on the healthy food option provided.

Making a Difference

This organisation had been awarded a one year revenue grant of £12,272 towards the salary costs of a Project Co-ordinator, Support Worker and insurance costs, but had been successful in securing additional funding from the Primary Care Trust as a contribution towards the Support Worker's salary costs. It therefore requested that the grant could be attributed to the salary costs of the Project Co-ordinator and a Counsellor's post. If this request was approved then four volunteer counsellors would be recruited.

Decision

Members approved:-.

- ❖ Grant aid of £5,000 to Wynyard Café.com
- ❖ Any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties to be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk.
- ❖ The rejection of the application from Heugh Gun Battery Trust as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of this report.
- ❖ That the applications from Hartlepool Bereavement Services and Make a Difference be deferred pending further information being sought.
- ❖ The remaining balance of the Community Pool totalling £67,207 to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the financial year

14. Civic Lottery Grant Applications *(Principal Democratic Services Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order for Members to consider Civic Lottery Grant applications:-

- ❖ Applications where no previous grants have been awarded
- ❖ Applications where grants have been previously awarded

Issues for Consideration

This was the second tranche for consideration of applications. Members previously agreed to distribute the balance available at three meetings proportionately. Each of the three tranches was allocated £2,232.16 at the start of the financial year. Following the allocation of grants in the first tranche there was a balance of £600.91. This made the current balance available £2833.07 for distribution in this tranche.

The amount of grants requested in this tranche outweighed the allocation available. The sum of the grants sought for consideration at this meeting totalled £6096.46 and therefore members would not be able to fully support each of the grant applications. It was usual in this position that awards are made on a pro-rata basis.

Applications had been sought from:-

Friends of the North Cemetery for a laptop, printer, ink, cable and laptop bag to assist the secretary to provide minutes - £500

Rovers Amateur Quoit Club for help towards costs of laundering strips, referee fees and stationery costs - £800

Headland Development Trust for funding of a weekly IT learn direct skill development programme - £1,692.48

St Francis 2000 FC for affiliation fees for leagues - £1,103.98

Hartlepool Ladies Choir for uniforms for choir members - £2,000

Decision

Members granted:-

£500 to the Friends of the North Cemetery

£500 to Rovers Amateur Quoit Club

£500 to St Francis 2000 FC

£500 to Hartlepool Ladies Choir

Members rejected the application from the Headland Development Trust.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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