

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



Monday, 24 August 2009

at 8.30 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond responsible for Community Safety and Housing will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Church Street Grants - Approval Arrangements - *Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)*
- 2.2 Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Cohesion Fund Proposals - *Head of Community Safety & Prevention*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No items

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder
24th August, 2009



Report of: Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)

Subject: Church Street Grants - Approval Arrangements.

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the approval arrangements for a small scale grants scheme focused on Church Street.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The report outlines the support that is available to businesses for small scale maintenance works and decoration to properties in Church Street. The report describes a suggested approval process for grant applications that is based on arrangements agreed for similar previous grant schemes, in conservation areas.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

- 3.1 The Portfolio Holder is responsible for conservation issues and is currently responsible for the approval of existing conservation grant applications, it is suggested the same approval route be used for these additional Church Street grants.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non-Key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder. .

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

6.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- i) Endorse the suggested approval arrangements for the Church Street grant scheme.

Report of: Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)

Subject: Church Street Grants - Approval Arrangements

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the approval arrangements for a small scale grants scheme focused on Church Street.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current condition of Church Street has been highlighted by the recent appraisal of the Church Street Conservation Area. The appraisal review highlighted that generally Church Street has decent occupancy rates when compared to historical levels, although there is an increasing number of empty properties. The appraisal did however identify emerging issues regarding maintenance levels of private properties and the public realm. This scheme will help to support businesses and property owners in addressing some of these issues.
- 2.2 The Church Street grant scheme has £55,000 allocated for small scale improvements to business properties for the financial year 2009/10 from Hartlepool Borough Council capital funds. Given the limited total amount of funding available this resource has been aimed at supporting business and property owners with small scale repairs and re-decoration of their properties.
- 2.3 Focusing the grant eligibility to these types of works and limiting the total amount available to individuals will allow the maximum number of property owners to benefit from the grant scheme. Through encouraging owners to invest in the external appearance of their properties this will help to provide an immediate and visible uplift to the street.
- 2.4 Although the main focus of the scheme will be smaller grants some provision has been made to allow the approval of larger grants within the scheme. There are a small number of empty properties in the street and if more substantial schemes were to come forward for these buildings larger grant contributions would be considered. Funding would only be available if the grant funding works directly resulted in the re-use of the empty property through the creation of a new

business and or jobs or if a significant uplift for the street could be achieved.

- 2.5 The grant improvements will complement the recent HBC investment in Church Street which has been completed as part of the ongoing programme of HBC works across the town. The works have included the repair and decoration of street furniture, repainting the road markings and the rationalisation of the planters in the street. The grant scheme will also complement the other major investment in the area associated with the train station and the Interchange development. The cumulative effect of these investments should help to further support the long term future of businesses in Church Street and provide an uplift prior to the Tall Ships event.

3. MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 Officers in the Regeneration team will be delivering the scheme, working closely with the Conservation Officer. Site visits to interested parties are followed up with an agreed work schedule. The applicant will then submit an application form and three independent and comparative quotations for the works. This information will form the basis of a grant report that will assess if the works are eligible and calculate the overall grant contribution. The grants will be administered utilising powers under section 58 of the Listed Building Act 1990. The grant report will then require the agreement and signature of the Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development) and the Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications linked to the report as the funding has been approved previously. The report outlines the management and delivery arrangements for these funds which includes a small management fee to cover staff costs for the Regeneration Team in delivering this scheme.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to:
- i) Endorse the suggested approval arrangements for Church Street grant scheme.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder

24th August 2009



Report of: Head of Community Safety & Prevention

Subject: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY COHESION FUND PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the recommendations of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of applications for community cohesion funding.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Proposed awards for community cohesion grants are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Manor West Youth Project	£440
Dent/Derwent Area Residents Assoc.	£308
Hart Gables	<u>£1,000</u>
	<u>£1,748</u>

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Portfolio holder has responsibility for community safety, which includes community cohesion grants.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Community Safety & Housing Portfolio on 24th August 2009.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Portfolio Holder is recommended to agree the recommendations of the SHP Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of three applications for funding to support community cohesion related projects totalling: £1,748.

Report of: Head of Community Safety & Prevention

Subject: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY COHESION FUND PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of applications for community cohesion funding.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Community cohesion, as defined by the Department for Communities and Local Government is: “What must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration, which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another.”
- 2.2 One of the annual priorities for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership under its strategic assessment process is that of public reassurance and community engagement. The lead for delivery of activity under this priority rests with the SHP Reassurance & Community Engagement themed group. This group has the remit to oversee initiatives, which fulfils the criteria for community cohesion funding, a key element of which is positive engagement and integration within communities across Hartlepool. A Community Cohesion grants panel has been formed, which comprises of members from that themed group, with fund administration undertaken by Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency.
- 2.3 A copy of the application form, which contains examples of cohesion and criteria by which applications will be considered is attached at **Appendix 1**. The maximum grant for organisations in one year has been agreed to be £5,000.
- 2.4 The SHP allocated £15,000 from 2008/09 and £15,000 from 2009/10 to be spent on projects which contributed to community cohesion.

- 2.5 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Cohesion Grants Panel met on 21st July 2009 and recommended the applications outlined at paragraph three for approval.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Manor West Youth Project

Funding is sought for two students currently on the Global Exchange programme to attend summer camp at Peat Rigg along with other youths from the Owton area.

The group works in partnership with both statutory and voluntary organisations to provide social educational and leisure opportunities for young people that build self esteem and divert young people from anti-social behaviour or criminal activities.

The group would like to send two Global Exchange students (1 from Ethiopia and 1 from Oxford who are currently on placement with the group) to summer camp at Peat Rigg, along with 26 youths from the Owton area. The project encourages greater cross cultural interactions between people from different backgrounds and creates similar life opportunities. It also enables people from different backgrounds to come together and experience new opportunities collectively.

Total cost of project:	£6160
Grant Panel recommendation:	£440

3.2 Dent/Derwent Area Residents Association

Funding is sought for an intergenerational 'afternoon tea' activity.

The group was set up to safeguard and promote the interests of residents in the area and to provide social, leisure and educational activities in order to improve the quality of life of residents.

Funding is requested for children/parents to host afternoon tea activities for approximately 20 elderly residents. Children will be involved in the preparation of the food and the venue. The children will also be able to chat with the elderly residents about the types of food available when they were young, rationing etc. as well as simple knitting and sing-a-long.

Total cost of project	£380
Grant Panel recommendation:	£380

3.3 Hart Gables

Funding is sought for publicity costs and the cost of workshops for alternative therapies, circus skills, art, drumming and Tai Chi to be held at 'The Gaymes' event in September.

Hart Gables is a user led, registered charity (No. 1109704) which is governed by a democratically elected management committee consisting of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual. Its aim is to promote equality and diversity, advance education, eliminate discrimination in relation to LGBT people, raise awareness and provide information, advice and support.

The Gaymes is an event designed to bring different communities together e.g. the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and mainstream communities to break down barriers. In 2007 the event attracted 120 people and in 2008 attendance had increased to 250.

Total cost of project:	£2,500
Grant Panel recommendation:	£1,000

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Cohesion grant budget totals £30,000 in 2009/10. The Portfolio Holder has previously approved applications totalling £9,340. Approval of the three applications outlined above would leave £18,912 to allocate.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to agree the SHP Community Cohesion Grants Panel recommendations in respect of three applications for funding to support community cohesion related projects totalling £1,748.

Contact Officer:

Brian Neale
Crime & Disorder co-ordinator
Tel: 01429 405584.
E.mail : brian.neale@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Individual grant applications.

2.2 APPENDIX 1 HARTLEPOOL COMMUNITY COHESION FUND APPLICATION FORM

Name of Group:.....

Name of Activity/Project:.....

**Please be specific and confine your answers to the spaces
provided.**

Do not use continuation sheets

1 Describe the activity that you wish to do

2 What evidence do you have that people in your community want/need this activity?

3 When do you expect the activity paid for by the Fund to

BEGIN ?	
END ?	

4 How will the activity contribute to community cohesion principles? *(see attached sheet)*
Describe how the activity addresses the difficulties faced by your target group.

5 What benefits do you expect to achieve and how will you measure how successful you have been?

6 Please estimate how many people will benefit from the activity/project	
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7 How much will the activity cost in total?	£
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£

8 How much Community Cohesion Funding do you need for this activity?	£
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£

9 How do you intend to finance the costs not covered by Community Cohesion funding?

10 Please give a breakdown of how much will be spent on different aspects of the activity/project and indicate (by ticking) in the first column which items are to be specifically funded by the grant:		£
TOTAL COSTS		£

£

TOTAL COSTS	£
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£

About you and your group

Main Contact		Second Contact	
Address		Address	
Postcode		Postcode	
Tel no. (day)		Tel no. (day)	
Tel no. (evening)		Tel no. (evening)	
e-mail		e-mail	
What are the best times to telephone the main contact ?			
If you have any communication needs, what are they? <i>(please tick as appropriate)</i>			
Textphone <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language <input type="checkbox"/> Other language <input type="checkbox"/> please say which:			
Other (please specify)			
In which geographical area(s) (e.g. district, borough, ward, or estate) does your group work?			
Considering the activity you wish to undertake, which sections of the community is specifically targeted (ie young people, elderly, BME etc):			
<p>If your group is not based in Hartlepool then you must obtain a letter of endorsement from a relevant Hartlepool based group in support of the application.</p> <p>Please describe what your group does:</p>			
<p>PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR CONSTITUTION OR SET OF RULES</p> <p>How many people are involved in running your group?</p>			

Number of Committee Members		Number of paid Staff working 30 hours or more	
Number of Volunteers		Number of paid Staff working under 30 hours	

When was your group formed?	
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Please enclose a set of your most recent accounts. If you are a new group please provide projected income and expenditure for the next 12 months.

Name of group's bank account to which cheque will be made payable (If you do not have a bank account please contact HVDA on 01429 262641)	
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HVDA will need to share information regarding your application with third parties (Grants Panel members), please state if you agree to this: YES / NO (delete as appropriate)

Declaration: to be signed by two authorised signatories from the group, as detailed in the Contact Section of this form.

We, the undersigned representatives of the group making this application, confirm that the information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Should the application be successful we agree to ensure that proper records are maintained of the funded activities and to provide monitoring and financial information as and when required.

Signature	Name in Block Capitals	Position in Group	Date
1			
2			

Check list:

Have you included the following documents with this application (✓)

Your group's rules or constitution	
Your annual accounts or statement of income and expenditure for the last 12 months	

**Please return the complete application to the Grants Administrator,
Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency,
Rockhaven, 36 Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS26 8DD**

Tel. 01429 262641

Fax. 01429 265056

PLEASE NOTE: Information in this form will be used for monitoring purposes and will be recorded in a database. However, individual details will not be made public without permission.

NAME OF GROUP.....

TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY COHESION FUND GRANTS PANEL MAKE THEIR DECISION THEY NEED TO KNOW THE TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM YOUR PROJECT

Please indicate the expected/estimated number of people in each category who are likely to benefit from your project. It is likely that the people that your project will benefit can be classed under a number of categories but please limit the categories you select to a **maximum of five**.

Categories of beneficiary	Number
Local Residents	
Children (up to 13 years)	
Young People aged 13 - 25	
People aged 26 - 49	
People over 50 years	
People who are from black and ethnic minorities	
People with disabilities	
Unemployed people	
Lone Parents	
Ex-offenders	
Drug users	
Refugees/Asylum seekers	
Homeless people/rough sleepers	
People with basic skills needs	
Travellers	
Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian & Transgendered	
Other (please describe)	

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP:

- Records of the number of people who benefit under the categories that you have indicated above
- Copies of relevant receipts/invoices for items or services purchased with the award

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A MONITORING FORM APPROXIMATELY 1 MONTH AFTER YOUR PROJECT ENDS.

DOCUMENTS STORED AT HVDA RELATING TO GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE INSPECTED BY AUDITORS ON BEHALF OF HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE GRANTS PANEL HAVE BEEN BASED UPON THE APPROPRIATE CRITERIA AND THAT THE FUNDED ACTIVITY HAD TAKEN PLACE AND WAS PAID FOR BY THE AWARD.

THE COMMUNITY COHESION FUND

PROMOTING GREATER COHESION WITHIN COMMUNITIES HAS FORMED AN IMPORTANT STRAND OF GOVERNMENT POLICY SINCE 2001. IN 2007 THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY COHESION MOVED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHO DEFINED COMMUNITY COHESION AS "... WHAT MUST HAPPEN IN ALL COMMUNITIES TO ENABLE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO GET ON WELL TOGETHER. A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO COMMUNITY COHESION IS INTEGRATION WHICH IS WHAT MUST HAPPEN TO ENABLE NEW RESIDENTS AND EXISTING RESIDENTS TO ADJUST TO ONE ANOTHER."

COMMUNITY COHESION PRINCIPLES

- Provide support to build capacity, confidence and trust within communities, which leads to greater resilience and sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.**
- Encourage greater cross cultural, cross community (communities of interest and geographical) activities to encourage meaningful interactions between people from different backgrounds.**
- Strengthen communities using community safety themes of crime prevention and addressing anti social behaviour.**
- Ensure that people from different backgrounds can have similar life opportunities.**
- Building the capacity of local people to participate in the improvement of their own areas**
- Enabling different communities to come together to improve greater understanding and cohesion between groups in Hartlepool.**
- Generate and create opportunities to work constructively with a broad range of agencies enabling people from different backgrounds to come together and experience new opportunities collectively.**
- Shared future vision and a safe sense of belonging to the whole community.**

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COHESION?

Community cohesion can seem intangible, making it hard to explain or justify what works to build cohesion and so get support for it. A community in which nearly everyone is similar is not automatically cohesive.

Cohesion is not about trying to make everyone the same; it is about giving people the skills to respect difference, to cope with change and welcome new residents.

Differences between people go much wider than race or faith – age, income, class or even lifestyle may be the cause of divides in some areas.

Cohesion is about trying to influence attitudes and behaviours.

Cohesion is about people pulling together – people helping each other.

Even the level of deprivation, which is the strongest influence on cohesion, can only explain a few percentage points of difference.

Improving cohesion is about addressing multiple issues at the same time.

Research suggests that there are relationships between cohesion and a number of areas, including:

- Community empowerment including people helping each other out, coming together to solve problems and trusting one another
- Volunteering
- Equalities and perceptions of fair treatment
- Preventing crime and anti social behaviour
- Sense of belonging and having friends from different backgrounds, which will bring other benefits.

There is a risk that cohesion can become over focussed on ethnic minorities – when it is about everyone in society.

FACTORS WHICH CAN AFFECT COMMUNITY COHESION

- Low level of pride in local area or some groups not feeling they belong.
- Low level of trust of others, or of or by some particular groups.
- Fear of crime, feeling unsafe after dark or fear of racist crime.
- Low levels of people having friends in another ethnic group.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY COHESION

Delivery of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Connecting Cultures sessions involving minority and minority ethnic groups sharing food and talking about their history and culture with each other

Events organised with the aim of bringing the community together to recognise similarities rather than differences (evidenced outcomes necessary)

Mini clean sweeps organised in areas

A service giving young people from a range of different backgrounds and communities the opportunities to interact in a structured and creative environment

Reducing the negative perceptions of young people and increase intergenerational understanding of all young people. By engaging different generations together, stereotypes can be challenged, and the fear of crime reduced and cohesion strengthened. Encourage more intergenerational activities, bringing different generations together in structured environments to learn new skills, enjoy fun events, and participate in sport, art and culture and to share life experiences and learn from each other

Positively working to bring young people from a range of backgrounds together to engage in positive structured activities, and in so doing, create better understanding of each other.

In many areas a key issue is territorialism among young people. You may wish to engage with them or youth workers to identify where they feel unsafe or where they feel the borders or flashpoints are.

Helping young people develop the skills necessary to participate positively in the local community.

Encourage intergenerational understanding (ie war veterans talking with pupils about their wartime experience, or a local history project promoting intergenerational insight)

One off events ie cross cultural/intergenerational cooking project

Continue to develop initiatives and work in partnership to counter anti social behaviour (including homophobic abuse/racism/ageism etc) and counter the fear of crime.

Promote the positive initiatives involving diverse communities

Bringing together owner occupiers and tenants on estates

Hold specific events that will bring different communities together either geographical communities or communities of interest/culture, enable different groups of people to come together to share a common experience. Ensure that these events have a clear purpose and outcome.

Develop a project to counter negative stereotyping and common perceptions to promote the achievements of all groups working towards community cohesion.

Stereotypes and common perceptions instead of myths and myth busting

Bringing different communities together in constructive positive activities or alternatively offering pro social activities to those who have become disengaged from the community, helping to build strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.

Enable different groups of people to come together to share their different perspectives, and work together to reach a common and better vision for them all giving groups a strong sense of shared belonging and focus on commonalities rather than difference.

Challenge stereotypes and encourage genuine cross cultural and cross faith relationships to be developed.

Ability to bring people together in a supportive environment offering a range of activities to improve and enhance their life opportunities.

Enabling members of the local community to interact in a structured environment creating a sense of shared local values and community across cultures and generations.

Community structures can be key to bringing people together and also in calming tensions. Questions which can be asked are:

- What youth provision is there?
- What are the range of organisations involved in community cohesion and the operational links between them?
- What voluntary and community groups are active in what area? What services to they provide?
- Are faith groups undertaking service or support provision? Where are they and what do they do? Are there interfaith groups?

The Community Cohesion Fund Grants Panel has a responsibility to ensure a balance of small to large grants. Grants of up to £5,000 can be awarded for single projects or activities. The maximum award per group in any one year is £5,000.

THE CRITERIA BY WHICH APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

- Specific items and a breakdown of the costs must be provided in the application. If the amount required is less than the cost of the entire project the specific items that require funding must be indicated
- Does it respond to local needs and priorities?
- Does it have the support of the relevant community?
- Will it increase community involvement or empowerment?
- Does it add to existing levels of community activity?
- Does it provide value for money in increasing skills and knowledge and encouraging community participation?
- Does it contribute to a distribution of funding which reflects the needs of a diverse community?
- Does the group have a commitment to equal opportunities in its working practices?

ITEMS INELIGIBLE FOR COMMUNITY COHESION FUNDING

- Activities undertaken outside of England
- Any costs that do not represent an additional cost exclusively incurred as a result of work carried out for the purposes of the Community Cohesion programme
- Overheads allocated or apportioned at rates materially in excess of those used for similar work carried out by the organisation
- Costs paid or liabilities incurred before signature of any funding agreement letter
- The cost of work or activities that any other person has a statutory duty to undertake
- Political or exclusively religious activities
- Payments made for contracts worth £5,000 or more, not let by competitive tender
- The construction or acquisition of buildings/the acquisition of freehold or leasehold rights over land
- Unpaid liabilities/provisions/contingent liabilities/contingencies
- Payments in advance of need/interest charges
- Service charges arising on finance leases, hire purchase and credit arrangements
- Costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors
- Depreciation and amortisation of fixed assets, or any part of the cost of fixed assets, paid for by this grant
- Payments for unfair dismissal/redundancy payments and compensation for loss of office
- Payments into private pension schemes/payments for unfunded pensions
- Bad debts arising from loans to trustees, proprietors, partners, employees, directors, shareholders or guarantors of the programme manager, or a person connected with any of these
- Gifts, prizes and alcohol
- Entertaining/Travel and subsistence that would give rise to a taxable benefit were the cost to be incurred by, but not borne by, an individual.
- VAT that is reclaimable by the funded organisation or becomes reclaimable during the period that the organisation benefits from grant funding/other tax (except PAYE)
- Statutory fines and penalties/criminal fines and damages