

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

11 November 2009

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Payne (In the Chair)
The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Councillor Tumilty

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Susan Rybak, Community Resource Manager
Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

8. Apologies for Absence

None

9. Declarations of Interest

None

10. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 August 2009

Approved

11. Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

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

Issues for Consideration

Proposed awards for consideration from the Community Safety Capital Fund are as follows:-

Business Security Fund – recommended grant of £20,000

This had been running for a number of years in order to assist small businesses vulnerable to crime, in securing their premises with a number of crime prevention measures.

Summerhill Centre, CCTV/Security Refurbishment – recommended grant of £9,100

Details of the proposed CCTV and enhanced lighting systems were outlined and it was clarified that there would be lighting at the rear of the premises as well as the front. Members queried why the CCTV costs would not be taken out of the £50,000 put aside for CCTV investment and were informed that this was a standalone system, not linked to the town's main system. Members expressed a desire that provision should be made for security of the nearby farm in order that any Anti-Social Behaviour would not be displaced there. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention agreed to liaise with OFCA to see whether it wished to link in with this CCTV provision.

Newburn Bridge Public Conveniences Strategy – recommended grant of £3,000

Members were concerned that funding for the CCTV provision had not been factored into the initial design and build costs

Decision

Members considered and approved the grants as outlined above totalling £32,100.

12. Community Pool 2009/2010 – Round 3 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report was to advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisation from the Community Pool for 2009/2010.

Issues for Consideration

Applications to the Community Pool had been invited for the 2009/2010 financial year from community groups and voluntary organisations providing services for the benefit of Hartlepool residents.

The Community Pool budget for the 2009/2010 financial year was £482,593. At the meeting of the Grants Committee on 24th February, 2009, Members approved Round 1 applications from the 2009/2010 budget totalling £400,473 leaving a balance of £82,120 to be committed at a later date.

At the same meeting, Members also agreed that the balance of the 2008/2009 Community Pool budget (£50,535) could be rolled forward into the 2009/2010 budget. At a further meeting of the Grants Committee on 11th May 2009, Members approved Round 2 applications totalling £67,521. On 17th August 2009 Members also approved the applications to the Directed Lettings Scheme which totalled £3,175 (£175 more than was previously allocated for these awards). After deducting the additional funding approved for this and taking all of the above into consideration, the balance available for distribution at this meeting is £64,959.

There were two applications presented for consideration in Round 3, a three year tapered grant, which was deferred in Round 1 and Round 2, from Hartlepool Families First in relation to the RESPECT project and a new application from Wynyard Café.com.

Careful examination of both applications had been made, with the result of recommendations as follows:-

Three Year Tapered Grant:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2009/2010 up to</u>
RESPECT (Hartlepool Families First)	£22,742	£17,056

This application had been deferred in Rounds 1 and 2 as the group was unable to provide the relevant supporting documentation to enable officers to make an informed recommendation at that time. However, Hartlepool Families First had taken over the management of RESPECT and had been able to provide officers with the necessary information. The background and history of the group was outlined to Members who had asked for the funding to support the salary costs of two Young People and Volunteer Support Worker posts and a contribution to rent.

Members asked whether the organisation was vulnerable regarding funding in the future and were informed that this would be a self

contained project with a parent company. The organisation would be monitored carefully and officers would encourage organisations to work in co-operation to reduce overheads.

One Year Revenue Grant:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2009/2010 up to</u>
Wynyard Café.com	£5,000	£4,467

This application was for a contribution towards core costs, salary costs of a Café Manager and a new post of Cook Trainer. The café is used by local residents including school children and the elderly. The Café planned to run a one year pilot training scheme to encourage local people to develop confidence and skills in cooking.

Members asked whether the Café would still be viable with a decrease in trade from Brierton School pupils and were assured that trade was likely to remain constant. It was clarified that the recommendation was the part year salary cost and that the group would be encouraged to submit their application at the beginning of the financial year in line with other organisations. Discussion took place about whether it would be prudent not to provide funding for new posts in the current financial climate and it was decided that this would be looked at in future and organisations would be encouraged to pool resources. A Member suggested that young people be allowed to attend any cookery courses.

As it has become apparent that some groups may require consideration of further in-year support to safeguard their future, a balance of funding has been retained to be committed at a later meeting of the Grants Committee.

Members were briefed on the current situation with regard to the Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre which would be considered by Cabinet.

Members were briefed relating to the current situation regarding the management and operation of Shopmobility and a copy of its Business Plan was appended to the report.

Decision

Members approved:-

- Year 2 of a Three Year Tapered grant of up to £17,056 for RESPECT (Hartlepool Families First)
- A one year revenue grant of up to £4,467 for Wynyard Café.com

- Any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties was to be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk
- The balance of the Community Pool, £60,492 to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the financial year

The meeting concluded at 2.55 pm

P J DEVLIN
CHIEF SOLICITOR

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