

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

2nd May 2006

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (In the Chair)

Councillor Robbie Payne

Officers: Peter Davies, Principal Youth Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

36. Apologies for absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of the Mayor, Stuart Drummond.

37. Declarations of interest by members

None.

38. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2006

Received

39. Youth Service Grant to Abbey Street (Headland Future), Voluntary Youth Project for 2006/7 (*Director of Children's Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek consideration of grant aid towards the running costs of Abbey Street Voluntary Youth Project.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report advised that the Youth Service supported voluntary youth groups which were complementary in contributing to town-wide provision for young people 13-19 years. Grants were assessed against criteria involving need (where services were required) and the potential of the voluntary organisations to contribute to the Youth Service's outcomes and targets. Abbey Street Voluntary Youth Project continued to successfully meet both criteria. Any grant issued was on the basis of delivering a specification which detailed the quantity/quality of youth work expected. The specification for the Abbey Street project was appended to the report.

The Abbey Street project operated a good curriculum and was particularly successful in respect of young people's participation through a user committee, and live music. Abbey Street would be effective in contributing numbers towards the Youth Service Reach target of 25% of 13-19 year olds and further had the capacity to deliver recorded and accredited outcomes.

The administration and finances of the organisation had had issues and pressures in the past. The project had restructured sensibly to accommodate the situation with administration and finances now more effectively deployed. The project had re-launched last year and was progressing well although finance remained an issue.

Given a level of uncertainty surrounding the project, Officers recommended the delegation of the release of funding to the Director of Children's Services so that staged payments and other safeguards could be accommodated. It was considered that delegation to the Director would best meet the needs of the youth project and protect the interests of the authority. The grant requested for 2006/7 was £27,315 which represented a 3% inflation increase on the previous year's award. The grant application was appended to the report. The Youth Service Budget for 2006/7 had earmarked for this project, a budget of £27,315, equivalent to the amount requested.

Members approved the proposed delegation to the Director of Children's Services but requested that the Chair of the Grants Committee be consulted by the Director on the release of each payment.

Decision

1. That the grant funding to Abbey Street Project (Headland Future Ltd) of £27,315 be approved
2. That the Director of Children's Services be authorised to oversee the staged release of funding, following consultation with the Chair of Grants Committee in each case, in order that a cautious but flexible approach be achieved.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 5th May 2006