

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

1 March 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Councillor Hilary Thompson

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Graham Jarritt, Library and Community Manager
Sue Rybak, Community and Youth Resource Manager
Peter Gouldsbro, Community Safety Officer
Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Keith Bayley and Paul McCraith

28. Appointment of Chair

In the absence of the Chair Councillor Hilary Thompson appointed to Chair the meeting

29. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Robbie Payne

30. Declarations of interest by members

None

31. Receipt of the minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2011

The minutes were received.

32. Civic Lottery Fund Grant Applications 2010/2011 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise and seek approval for the third round of Civic Lottery Fund Grant applications in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Issues for Consideration

Members were advised that 2010/2011 balance available for distribution at the beginning of the financial year was £12,200. At a previous meeting Members had agreed to allocate £1,500 for Senior Citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties, leaving £10,700 remaining for the year. It was also agreed at previous meeting that any funding should be distributed in three tranches. Therefore the total available for distribution in Round 3 was £3,596. This amount included the balance remaining from the previous funding round. The total sum sought in Round 3 was £12,030.

The following applications were considered from groups who had not been funded previously:

- A Chance to Succeed – requested £1,200 as start-up costs of the project for students and volunteers
- Fens Monday Club – requested £500 towards running costs including venue hire
- Golden Flatts F.C, - requested £1,500 towards CRB, coaching, pitch league and affiliation fees
- Hartlepool Carers Teens and Youth – requested £2,000 towards hall and transport costs
- Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation – requested £330 towards venue and coach hire
- Headland F.C. – requested £380 towards pitch and league fees
- Pink Domino Garden Club – requested £570 towards hire of a marquee for Garden Show and family fun day
- Retired People Table Tennis – requested £300 towards venue hire
- St Teresa's RC Church – requested £750 towards equipment and outings
- Welfare Athletic F.C. – requested £200 towards pitch and league fees

The following applications were considered from groups who had been

supported previously from the Civic Lottery.

- Chester Road F.C. – requested £900 towards running costs, league, referee and membership fees
- Hartlepool Headland Local History Group – requested £1,000 towards running costs, refreshments and entertainment
- Hartlepool Schools Football Association – requested £500 towards running costs including transport and pitch hire
- Hartlepool Sports Council – requested £500 towards administration costs for 2 years
- Schooner Athletic F.C. – requested £200 towards league, insurance and referees fees

The Mayor queried whether Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation had previously been known as Football in the Community. The Assistant Director was unsure of this. The Mayor advised that he was a member of the board of directors of Football in the Community and as such had a prejudicial interest and would be unable to make a decision on this item. This would therefore require deferment to a future meeting. Members were happy to approve the amounts for all the other organisations as recommended by officers

Decision

That the following grant awards be approved:

- A Chance to Succeed - £200 towards printing costs
- Fens Monday Club - £240 towards hire of centre
- Golden Flatts F.C. - £200 for coaching and league fees
- Hartlepool and District Sports Council - £250 towards 2 years administration costs
- Hartlepool Carers Teens and Youth - £270 towards transport costs
- Hartlepool Chester Boys F.C. - £200 towards referees fees
- Hartlepool Headland Local History Group - £350 towards cost of event insurance
- Hartlepool Schools Football Association - £200 towards transport and league fees
- Headland F.C. - £200 towards league fees
- Pink Domino Garden Club - £350 towards the cost of hiring a marquee
- Retired Peoples Table Tennis - £150 towards hire of centre
- Schooner Athletic F.C. - £200 towards insurance, referee and league fees
- St Teresa's Catholic Church – £250 towards outings
- Welfare Athletic F.C. - £200 towards league fees

That consideration of a grant award for Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation be deferred to a future meeting

32. Community Safety Capital Grants Allocation *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise members of a request to amend the proposed schedule of works in respect of a Community Safety Capital Fund grant previously awarded and seek consideration and approval for recommended variation

Issues for Consideration

At Grants Committee on 2nd November 2010 members approved a grant award of £16,900 in respect of the replacement of two sides of the existing external fencing at Summerhill Allotments. The initial recommendation was to replace the existing wood lathe fencing to 2 sides by metal palisade. However following consultation with plot holders and community safety an alternative proposal had been put forward, namely the retention of the existing wood fencing with the addition of a top length of 'mesh style' fencing clamped to the existing fence posts. This would raise the overall fence height to at least 2.4 metres, further enhancing the security of the site at no extra cost. This revision would increase the original budgeted cost by £300. This increase would be covered by revenue budget meaning that the previously approved Community Safety Capital Grant award would remain unchanged.

Members commented that a metal fence would be likely to last longer than the existing wooden fence. The Community Safety Officer acknowledged this but felt that the existing fence was too good to replace. Height had always been the overriding security consideration and this would provide a solution.

Decision

That the recommended amendments to the proposed schedule of works in respect of a previous award for the replacement of fencing at Summerhill Allotments be approved.

33. Community Pool 2011/2012 *(Director of Child and Adult 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 2011/2012

Issues for Consideration

The Community Pool budget for 2011/12 had been set at £444,658. This included a £50,000 reduction on the base budget of 2010/11 due to savings following the reduction in Council funding and the Corporate Spending Review. The balance remaining for 2010/11 is currently £53,132. Officers requested that this balance be rolled over into the 2011/12 budget, leaving a total balance of £497,790. Of this balance £2,900 had been set aside for Directed Lettings and £2,500 for Hartlepool Sports Council, thereby leaving a balance of £492,390.

Applications from Hartlepool Hospice, Red Dreams and Victim Support were not recommended for approval while members were recommended to defer an application from Radio Hartlepool. Due to the current financial difficulties facing the council and the subsequent pressures on the voluntary and community sector a review into how the Council supports Third Sector organisations is ongoing. Pending the results of this review options for how the Community Pool could be allocated in 2011/12 had been provided. Option 1 was to base the award for 2011/12 on the award previously given in 2010/11 with a 10% reduction. In this case consideration would be given to groups that would be disproportionately affected by a reduction in their funding. Option 2 was to fund organisations for 6 months only, based on 50% of the Option 1 award. Members were asked to indicate their preferred allocation option

Applications from the following organisations were recommended for approval, the amount depending upon which of the options for allocation was chosen:

- Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre
- Epilepsy Outlook
- Harbour Support Services: Search
- Hart Gables
- Hartlepool Access Group: Shopmobility
- Hartlepool Carers

- Hartlepool Catholic Boxing Club
- Hartlepool Citizens Advice Bureau
- Hartlepool Community Studio
- Hartlepool Credit Union Forum
- Hartlepool Families First
- Hartlepool People Centre
- Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency
- Headland Future
- Making a Difference
- Orb Centre
- Owton Fens Community Association
- Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association
- Salaam Centre
- Voluntary Wheels
- West View Advice and Resource Centre
- West View Project
- Wharton Trust
- Wynyard Café.com

Members felt that a decision on future funding arrangements made by 2 executive members would not adequately reflect Cabinet's opinion. They noted that Cabinet members had supported a change in future allocation mechanisms and Option 1 was merely a continuation of current methodology, albeit giving lower amounts than previously. Members requested that consideration of this item be deferred to a meeting the following week. The Democratic Services Officer indicated that this would require the adjournment of the current meeting. This was supported to Members who also noted that the Mayor had a prejudicial interest in Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre and would therefore be unable to take part in any decision on this organisation. This would mean that the meeting would be inquorate in respect of that decision. Members also asked that the previously deferred decision in respect of a Civic Lottery Grant Application for Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation be considered at said reconvened meeting.

Decision

That the end of year balance of £53,132 for 2010/2011 Community Pool be rolled forward into the 2011/2012 Community Pool budget

That £2,900 be allocated to Directed Lettings for 2011/2012

That £2,500 be allocated to Hartlepool Sports Council for their sports award scheme

That consideration of the recommendations in Appendices 2 and 3 and approval of funding Options 1 or 2 be deferred

That the application from Radio Hartlepool be deferred

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.

That applications from Hartlepool Hospice, Red Dreams and Victim Support be rejected

That any remaining balance from the Community Pool be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2011/2012 financial year subject to the funding option selected.

34. Hartlepool Sports Council Awards Allocation *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update Grants Committee Members on the Hartlepool Sports Council awards allocated to date.

Issues for Consideration

Community Pool funding of £2,500 was awarded to Hartlepool Sports Council in September 2010 on the condition that the Sports Council grant criteria be improved to ensure the robustness of decisions made. These improvements ensure that applicants applying for sports grants are county standard or above and reside in, or represent a club in, the Hartlepool Borough Council area. The amount the applicant is eligible to apply for is dependent upon the standard of the applicant with a maximum amount of £500 available depending upon individual circumstances and funding availability. 42 applications had subsequently been received, shortlisted to 23 using the new criteria. These 23 applications were subsequently approved by the Hartlepool Sports Council, details of which were appended to the report. Members were advised that Hartlepool Sports Council had taken the decision to reduce the maximum amount given to eligible applicant to £475 in order to ensure that all applicants were able to benefit. Applicants would receive their awards at an awards evening on 7th March 2011.

Members were happy to note the wealth of young people with sporting prowess in Hartlepool.

Decision

That the report be noted

35. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting stood adjourned at 2:45 pm to be reconvened at 12 noon on Monday 7 March 2011

Monday 7 March 2011

The meeting reconvened at 1.00 pm. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Hilary Thompson (In the Chair)

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Councillor Robbie Payne

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Keith Bayley and Paul McCraith

36. Civic Lottery Fund Grant Applications 2010/2011 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To advise and seek approval for the third round of Civic Lottery Fund Grant applications in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Issues for Consideration

Previously members had approved all but one of the Civic Lottery grant applications as recommended by officers. However they had been unable to make a decision regarding the Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation as a member had declared an interest thereby leaving the meeting inquorate. As the meeting was now quorate Members expressed

their support for the awarding of this grant as recommended by officers.

Decision

That the following grant award be approved:

- Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation - £330 towards coach hire

37. Community Pool 2011/2012 *(Director of Child and Adult 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 2011/2012

Issues for Consideration

During discussions with Cabinet colleagues earlier that day a preference for Option 2 had been expressed as it was felt this would allow officers 6 months to prioritise existing Community Pool allocations as agreed during the recent budget discussions. The Assistant Director confirmed that it would be possible to carry out a review of this sort within 6 months provided officers were given a clear allocation of priorities and direction.

Members referred to the Equality Impact Assessment which had identified 4 groups which would be adversely affected by the recommended 10% cut in budget. Two of these were match funded which members accepted could have a disproportionate impact, however the Salaam Centre and Hart Gables were not match funded and therefore did not fall into this category. Members felt that if other organisations were being hit hard it was unfair to exempt these 2 groups. The Assistant Director acknowledged this but commented that the council could be open to legal challenge as both groups offered support and guidance to communities deemed to be covered under the interpretation of the Equality Impact Assessment which were unique providers within Hartlepool. Members queried whether existing groups could alter their service areas thereby making themselves exempt from the cuts but the Assistant Director advised that it would need to be their sole focus in order for the Equality Impact Assessment to apply. The Assistant Director suggested that if members were unhappy at applying a 10% cut to certain organisations they could dispense with the cut altogether as an amendment to Option 2. However members felt this would only reduce those monies available in 6 months time. Members felt strongly that all organisations should be given 50% of the previous year's funding minus 10% and that there should be no exceptions to this other than Harbour and Shopmobility who both had contractual partners

matching the existing Hartlepool grant. Further consideration of their position would be given as part of the prioritisation decisions for the remainder of the year

Decision

That the following grant awards in respect of the Community Pool 2010/11 be approved:

Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre	£10,171.50
Epilepsy Outlook	£4,177.50
Harbour Support Services: Search	£7,880
Hart Gables	£5,200
Hartlepool Access Group: Shopmobility	£11,974.50
Hartlepool Carers	£14,294
Hartlepool Catholic Boxing Club	£2,250
Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Bureau	£36,130
Hartlepool Community Studio	£9,562.50
Hartlepool Credit Union	£16,793
Hartlepool Families First	£12,310.50
Hartlepool People Centre	£12,153.50
Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency	£12,778
Headland Future	£5,670
Making a Difference	£3,864
Orb Centre, The	£2,250
Owton Fens Community Association	£10,316.50
Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association	£6,277
Salaam Centre, The	£7,132.50
Voluntary Wheels	£2,833
West View Advice and Resource Centre	£13,103
West View Project	£9,388
Wharton Trust, The	£8,458.50
Wynyard Café.com	£2,250

The meeting concluded at 1:30 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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