

GRANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Wednesday 20 April 2011

at 9.00 am

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: GRANTS COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Payne and H Thompson

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2011 (previously circulated)
4. **KEY DECISIONS**

No items
5. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

No items
6. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
 - 6.1 Call-in of decision – Community Pool 2011/12 – *Scrutiny Coordinating Committee*

GRANTS COMMITTEE**20 April 2011****Report of:** Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**Subject:** CALL-IN OF DECISION – COMMUNITY POOL
2011/12

SUMMARY**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To report the outcome of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meeting on the 7 April 2011 at which consideration was given to the Call-In of the following decisions taken by the Grant Committee on 1 March 2011 (reconvened 7 March 2011):-

Minute No. 37 – Community Pool 2011/12 (extract)

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

| | |
|---|---------|
| Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Centre | £36,130 |
| Hartlepool Credit Union | £16,793 |
| Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency | £12,778 |
| Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association | £6,277 |

- 2.2 To refer the decision taken in Minute No. 37 of the Grants Committee on 1 March 2011 (as outlined in section 2.1 above) back to Grants Committee for further consideration.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the key concerns of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in relation to the 'call-in' of the decisions taken by the Grants Committee on the 1 March 2011 in relation to the Community Pool 2011/12 grant allocations.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

- 3.1 As per the Authority's Call-In procedure, the Grants Committee is required to consider the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's comments and respond to them. In considering comments the Grants Committee has two options in terms of a way forward:-

- (i) Reaffirm the original decision, or
- (ii) Modify the original decision.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 The decision making route is as follows:

- Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 April 2011;
- Grants Committee on 20 April 2011; and
- Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in the new Municipal Year.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 To note the views expressed by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in response to the 'call-in' of decisions taken on the 1 March 2011 (reconvened 7 March 2011); and
- 6.2 To reaffirm or amend the decision taken by the Grants Committee on the 1 March 2011 (minute no. 37 refers), setting out the reasons for doing so in response to the issues raised by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

Report of: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Subject: CALL-IN OF DECISION – COMMUNITY POOL
2011/12

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the decision making meeting of the Grants Committee on the 1 March 2011 (reconvened 7 March 2011), a report was considered in relation to the award of Community Pool grants / funding for 2011/12. Following consideration of the report / information provided the Grants Committee made the following decisions:-

Minute No. 37 – Community Pool 2011/12 (extract)

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

| | |
|---|---------|
| Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Bureau | £36,130 |
| Hartlepool Credit Union | £16,793 |
| Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency | £12,778 |
| Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association | £6,277 |

- 1.2 To assist Grants Committee Members, copies of the relevant reports and an extract of the minutes from the Grants Committee meeting on the 1 March 2011 are attached at **Appendix A and B**, respectively.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee gave initial consideration to a 'call-in' notice in relation to the decisions of the Grants Committee (as outlined in Section 1.1 above) taken on 1 March 2011 (reconvened 7 March 2011) at its meeting on the 25 March 2011. Following consideration of the information provided, the Committee received and accepted a 'call-in' notice on the basis that the decision had been taken in contravention of the principles of decision making (as outlined in Article 13 of the Constitution). The reasons identified in the call in notice being:-
- vii) Clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and
 - xii) Reasonableness
- 1.4 At the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 25 March 2011 it was agreed that to ensure the Call-In would be considered in a practical and timely manner a Working Group of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee would be established to deal with the Call-In. The 'Community Pool (Call-In) Working Group' met on 7 April 2011 to consider the Call-In. The Assistant Director of Community Services and the Community and Youth Resource Manager also attended this meeting.
- 1.5 The Community Pool (Call-In) Working Groups responded to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 April 2011, the outcomes of discussions at this

meeting are outlined in Section 2 of this report. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee subsequently approved the Working Groups recommendations for consideration by the Grants Committee at its meeting today.

2. KEY ISSUES / CONCERNS

- 2.1 The Community Pool (Call-In) Working Group met on the 7 April 2011 to determine whether to uphold the call-in as detailed in the notice, giving due consideration to each individual grant decision. The Working Group discussed in detail the decisions and expressed views as follows:-

The Grant Awards Process was Correctly Applied

- 2.2 Members sought clarification on a numbers of issues relating to the awards process, including the criteria for a group being designated as being new applicants. Members were advised the new applicants were groups who have been established for two or more years, with a constitution, who have not previously applied for a grant.
- 2.3 The Working Group noted that groups could apply for annual grants or for three year (front loaded) tapered grants, which were aimed at moving to self sustainability. If a group applied for a three year tapered grant and were successful, that group could not apply for funding in the fourth year following the award.
- 2.4 In light of this information, and following detailed discussion, it was agreed that the decisions in relation to the grants awarded to the following groups had not contravened the principles of decision making (as outlined in Article 13 of the Constitution):
- Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Bureau
 - Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency
 - Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association
- 2.5 In accordance with the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution) the decisions in relation to each of these groups was referred to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and were ratified under Any Other Business of an Urgent Nature and became effective on the 8 April 2011, the day after the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.
- 2.6 Whilst the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee was satisfied that the current process / procedure had been implemented correctly in approving these grants, Members felt strongly that the following should be taken into consideration as part of the review of the grant criteria currently being undertaken:-
- (i) That submissions for grant monies should contain comprehensive detail of the services each organisation will provide to the people of Hartlepool and that it would be expected that this service should be provided for the length of the grant awarded;

- (ii) That following the award of grants, the performance of groups should be closely monitored to ensure that the provision of services meets the level and standard agreed as part of the grant approval; and
- (iii) That there be Member involvement / consultation in the process for the review of the criteria / process for the award of Community Pool Grants.

- 2.7 The Working Group also noted that groups should be able to reduce their expenditure in ways other than service and staffing reductions, such as looking at administration efficiencies. Members of the Working Group strongly supported the idea that all groups applying for grants should be actively encouraged to become as efficient as possible in areas of their operations which do not impact on services.

The Information / Evidence Utilised in Making the Decision

- 2.8 In reviewing the Call-In of the award to the Hartlepool Credit Union Forum (Ltd) Members of the Community Pool (Call-In) Working Group felt that a previous decision of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement, taken in September 2010, was contrary to the decision of the Grants Committee to award the grant.
- 2.9 The Working Group was informed that the Hartlepool Credit Union had approached the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement in September 2010 requesting funds to ensure the continued existence of the Credit Union. Members were advised that the Portfolio Holder reluctantly agreed to a grant to the Credit Union and was given assurance by the Chair of the Hartlepool Credit Union that there would be no further request for funding the next year. To assist Grants Committee Members copies of the relevant reports and an extract of the minutes from the Finance and Procurement Portfolio meeting on the 22 September 2010 are attached at **Appendix C and D**, respectively. **These items contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely (para3), information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**
- 2.10 Members of the Working Group queried whether the Grants Committee were aware of the decision of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement at the time of their award of funds to Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd. and were advised that they were not. It was felt that this was an important factor, of which the Grant Committee should have been made aware, when making its decision to award funds to Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd. from the 2011/12 Community Pool and. As such, it was recommended to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee that this decision be referred back the Grants Committee for consideration in conjunction with the additional information outlined in Section 2.9 above.
- 2.11 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 April 2011 Members recognised that the Call-In had potentially placed a financial burden

on the organisations whose awards had been called in and as such the findings of the Community Pool (Call-In) Working Group were taken by the Committee as a matter of urgency, in order to deal with the Call-In as efficiently and sensitively as possible. The recommendations of the Community Pool (Call-In) Working Group were accepted in full by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

- 2.12 As outlined in Section 2.5 above, it was agreed by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee that the Call-in in relation to 3 of the grant awards should not be upheld, and as such these decisions have now been enacted.
- 2.13 In relation to the Grants Committee decision regarding the award of a grant to the Hartlepool Credit Union Forum (Ltd), the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee was of the view that the decision had contravened the principles of decision making. The basis for this being that the Grants Committee had not been provided with vital details of a decision in relation to funding previously obtained by the group through the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement (as detailed in Section 2.9 above) in September 2010. Indications from the group at that time being that no further grants would be applied for / needed in the next year.
- 2.14 On this basis, and in accordance with the agreed process for the conduct of Call-in's through Scrutiny, the decision in relation to grant award to Hartlepool Credit Union Forum (Ltd) is referred back to the Grants Committee for consideration. It is then at the discretion of the Grants Committee to decide if it wished to amend or reaffirm its decision in relation to this application.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the decisions taken by the Grants Committee in relation to the following groups had not contravened the principles of decision making (as outlined in Article 13 of the Constitution). As such elements of the Call-in relating to these groups was not upheld enabling the decision to be enacted with immediate effect:-

Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Bureau
Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency
Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association

- 3.2 That whilst the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee was satisfied that the current process / procedure had been implemented correctly in approving the grants outlined in 3.1 above, the following should be taken into consideration as part of the review of the grant criteria currently being undertaken:-
 - (i) That submissions for grant monies should contain comprehensive detail of the services each organisation will provide to the people of Hartlepool and that it would be expected that this service should be provided for the length of the grant awarded;

- (ii) That following the award of grants, the performance of groups should be closely monitored to ensure that the provision of services meets the level and standard agreed as part of the grant approval; and
 - (iii) That there be Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee involvement / consultation in the process for the review of the criteria / process for the award of Community Pool Grants.
- 3.3 That the decision taken in relation to the award of a Community Pool grant to the Hartlepool Credit Union Forum (Ltd) contravened the principles of decision making (as outlined in Section 2.9 and 2.13 above).
- 3.4 That the Grants Committee be asked to reconsider its decision and in doing this, takes into consideration the background and content of the decision taken by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement on the 22 September 2010, which it had not been aware of at the time of its original decision.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Report and Minutes of the Grants Committee meeting held 1 March 2011 (reconvened 7 March 2011).
- (ii) Report and Minutes of the Finance and Procurement Portfolio meeting held 22 September 2010.
- (iii) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled 'Call-In of Decision: Call-in of Decision Community Pool 2011/12 – Introduction and Background Information' presented to the Community Pool (Call-In) Working Group on 7 April 2011.
- (iv) Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 April 2011.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

1st March 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: COMMUNITY POOL 2011/2012

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2011/2012.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Applications to the Community Pool have been invited for services provided in the 2011/2012 financial year from community groups and voluntary organisations. 28 applications have been made, totalling requests of £722,158.

The Community Pool budget for the 2011/2012 financial year has been set at £444,658. This includes a £50,000 reduction on the base budget of the 2010/2011 financial year which has been agreed as a result of the savings that have to be made because of the reduction in council funding and the Corporate Spending Review.

The balance remaining of the Community Pool for the 2010/2011 financial year is currently £53,132. Officers are requesting that this balance be rolled forward into the 2011/2012 budget. If the request is approved there will be a total balance of £497,790 to be committed during the 2011/2012 financial year.

Within the Community Pool budget, it is usual practice to allocate funding for Directed Lettings: support to groups for the hire of premises. The Directed Lettings allocation for 2011/2012 is £2,900. Also, Members agreed at the meeting of the Grants Committee in September 2010 that funding should be allocated for Hartlepool Sports Council for their sports awards. Therefore, £2,500 is being recommended for Hartlepool Sports Council in 2011/2012 to continue this initiative.

If the roll over of the balance of the 2010/2011 budget is approved and after the deduction of the Directed Lettings and Hartlepool Sports Council allocation this will leave a balance for distribution at this meeting of £492,390.

Three applications are not recommended for funding at this time. Details of these applications are included in the body of the report.

Officers are recommending that the decision relating to one application is deferred to the next meeting of the Grants Committee.

Due to the financial difficulties faced by the Council going into 2011/2012 and the pressures on the voluntary/community sector, the Council is currently reviewing how it supports third sector organisations. The outcome of the review should be known by the end of September 2011. This being the case, options for how the Community Pool could be allocated in 2011/2012 have been provided as **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3** to be considered by Grants Committee.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER(S)

The Grants Committee is responsible for determining the level of grant awards from the Community Pool to the voluntary sector.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee to determine awards at meeting, 1st March, 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members are requested to approve/note:-

1. The end of year balance for 2010/2011 Community Pool currently £53,132, to be rolled forward into the 2011/2012 Community Pool budget.
2. The levels of budget allocated for Directed Lettings.
3. An award of £2,500 for Hartlepool Sports Council for their sports award scheme.
4. Consideration of the recommendations in **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3** and approval of funding Options 1 or 2.
5. Recommendations to defer the application from Radio Hartlepool as detailed in the body of the report.
6. 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.

7. The rejection of the applications from Red Dreams, Victim Support and Hartlepool Hospice as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report.
8. Any remaining balance of the Community Pool to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2011/2012 financial year subject to the funding option selected.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: COMMUNITY POOL 2011/2012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2011/2012.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Pool provides financial assistance to support those aspects of the activities of the voluntary/community/not for profit sector that clearly reflect the aspirations of the Council's Community Strategy.
- 2.2 The Council has identified, within the Community Strategy's aims and themes, a number of corporate strategy priorities. The main objective of the Community Pool is to support the activity of strengthening communities.
- 2.3 Applications are processed against set criteria, which can be found as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 Grant aid awarded is generally provided as a contribution towards the core costs of an organisation's operation and in many instances helps to match other funding streams.
- 2.5 The Community Pool budget for the 2011/2012 financial year has been set at £444,658 this includes a £50,000 reduction on the base budget of the 2010/2011 financial year. This reduction in the budget has been agreed as a result of the savings that have to be made because of the Council's reduction in funding due to the cut in the Corporate Spending Review.
- 2.6 However, Officers are requesting the roll forward of the balance of the 2010/2011 Community Pool budget of £53,132. If this request is approved the total available to commit during the 2011/2012 financial year would be £497,790.

3. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDS

- 3.1 Application to the Community Pool is open to all, however, the majority of the applications for 2011/2012 are from groups that have received grant aid previously and are somewhat **dependant** on financial support from the Council to ensure their sustainability.

- 3.2 Applicants can apply for a one-year revenue grant or a three-year tapering revenue grant and as part of the assessment process, applications have been categorised to ensure that financial support is maintained to those groups providing services that complement the Authority's strategic aims and objectives. **Appendix 1** The criteria and guidance notes for applicants provides information for applicants relating to what can be funded and how applications are assessed.
- 3.3 In accordance with the criteria, applications have been categorised as follows:-
- (i) Providers of services that are of strategic importance.
 - (ii) Community development/capacity building initiatives.
 - (iii) Established groups who have been fully constituted for in excess of two years and have not been previously supported from the Community Pool.
 - (iv) Other organisations/groups.
- 3.4 Consideration is given to the group's operational activity with funding provided as a proportion of the core costs and the potential of the group to access other funding in order to achieve a complete financial package for their activities.
- 3.5 Some groups have applied for substantially larger grants compared to those approved for 2010/2011. Some groups have taken action to cope with the reduction in funding from other sources, including measures to reconfigure the activities of the organisation, proactively seeking other funding and making plans to sell their services in order to ensure the sustainability of the organisation. In some cases the outcome of other fundraising applications is imminent and in some cases is dependant on the outcome of any application to the Community Pool. Many groups have identified exit strategies which they will put into place should their bid for to the Community Pool be rejected.
- 3.6 Where grant aid has been approved and where it is considered to be appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk, Officers would suggest that Members of the Grants Committee allow Officers to make an informed decision about the frequency of payments to grant recipients. Normally grant aid is paid out in 2 instalments, but this could be tailored according to the prevailing circumstances of the group to monthly or quarterly payments.

4. OPTIONS CONSIDERATION FOR 2011/12

The traditional route of making recommendations, based on the applications received for the new financial year has not been provided for Members consideration within this report. Changes to financial circumstances require consideration of alternative approaches. Two options are proposed. The first option addresses the changed financial position of the Pool. The Community Pool budget for 2011/12 has been reduced by 10% of the 2010/11 budget.

Additionally the Council may make additional cuts to budgets in 2012/13. This is due to the outstanding Service Delivery Review and potential impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The second option seeks to apply criteria for future Community Pool disbursement and eligibility in line with Member recommendations proposed as part of the Budget process. These aim to target commissioning of service provision with measurable outcomes rather than the current contribution to core costs. Two options for recommendations are included as **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

Option 1 includes recommendations that are based on the award that the group received in 2010/2011 then reduced by 10% which is in keeping with the reduction to the overall reduction in the Community Pool budget. Therefore, no account is made of the actual bid submitted where this has for some reason, been increased beyond that of the award in 2010/11.

However, additional consideration has been given to those groups that would be disproportionately affected by any reduction to their funding. Where this is deemed to be the case additional funding has been allocated to bring these awards back to the current years level. An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and is included for Members information as **Appendix 4**.

Option 2 is a more radical recommendation and proposes funding for a 6 month period only. Grant recommendation is calculated as 50% of the grant within the Option 1 recommendation. If Members approve this option all groups who are awarded a grant would have the funding paid in one instalment. The balance of the Community Pool after the six month period would be £261,981. This approach would allow for a 'new scheme' to be established in this current financial year which would provide support through grants or commissioning to groups providing services that are of strategic importance.

The basis of this option is in line with a Member desire to move from core cost contribution to that of a 'commissioned' service in recognition of clearly determined and delivered outcomes.

This may prove somewhat difficult to bring into fruition in the timescale identified and bears a considerable risk that it is: a) undeliverable, and b) causes extensive hardship for the supported groups. The implication being that if a group were no longer supported, they may be left with insufficient time to manage a downsizing of operation or have funding to cover their staff redundancy liabilities.

This is not a viable option in the view of Officers for 2011/12. However, it is included for consideration as it does reflect longer term expressed Member wishes. It could be developed within 2011/12 in order to be approved and implemented from 2012/13. In this way all current groups would be aware of the new funding proposal and criteria from the time of the annual call for 2012/13 submissions in November 2011.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2011/2012

5.1 As detailed in paragraph 2.6 of this report, the total budget available for 2011/2012 is £497,790. 28 applications from community groups and voluntary organisations that provide services in Hartlepool have been received. The value of these applications totals £722,158 far exceeding the total budget available.

5.2 **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3** provides a list of all the applications to the Community Pool for 2011/2012 and details 2 options for recommendations relating to those applications. Where funding is being recommended, information relating to the expenditure of the grant is also provided. Detailed below, are the four broad areas into which these applications fall:-

5.3 One: Ongoing Commitments

Within the Community Pool budget it is usual practice to allocate funding for Directed Lettings: support to groups for the hire of premises. Based on demand in the 2010/2011 financial year, Officers are recommending that £2,900 should be allocated for Directed Lettings for 2011/2012.

At a meeting of the Grants Committee in September 2010 Members approved an award of £2,500 for Hartlepool Sports Council and also agreed that the funding should be allocated every year thereafter at the beginning of the year as a contribution towards their annual sports awards. Officers are recommending that £2,500 be allocated for 2011/2012 to Hartlepool Sports Council.

Taking all of the above into consideration the uncommitted balance available for distribution therefore is £492,390.

5.4 Two: Applications Recommended for Rejection

Red Dreams: The application from Red Dreams is being recommended for rejection at this time. The application falls into Category 3 'Established groups who have not been previously supported'. Officers are recommending rejection of this application because another existing, regularly supported group carries out similar work to Red Dreams is being recommended for support and as resources are limited we must avoid duplication of provision. Also as the group has not been supported from the Community Pool previously the group won't be deemed reliant on funding from the Community Pool.

Victim Support: The application from Victim Support is being recommended for rejection at this time because the application is for an enhanced service over and above what is currently being provided in Hartlepool at the moment. Victim Support is in receipt of a considerable grant from the North East Region Ministry of Justice Grant for the Teesside Division, the Head Office of which is based in Middlesbrough. This grant supports all the work delivered from Middlesbrough. Victim Support has also applied to the Safer

Hartlepool Partnership for funding for the Hartlepool project but the outcome of this application is not known yet. As Victim Support has not been supported with funding from the Community Pool in recent years and as resources are limited, and the application is for a considerable amount, £28,325, officers do not feel that given the pressures on the budget it would be appropriate to make a positive recommendation in relation to this application at this time.

Hartlepool Hospice: The application from Hartlepool Hospice is being recommended for rejection at this time. As Hartlepool Hospice has not been supported with funding in recent years, and are therefore not reliant on funding from the Community Pool and as resources are limited and the application is for a considerable amount, £25,338, officers are recommending rejection of this application.

5.5 Three: Applications Recommended for Funding

With the budget being substantially oversubscribed Officers have taken a very cautious approach in relation to the formulation of the levels of funding recommended for applicant groups.

In some cases, substantial increases on last years levels have been requested; usually because a funding stream which was previously used to match local authority funding has come to an end. However, because of the difficult financial situation that the council finds itself in and the savings that have to be made from the Community Pool, two options are being put before the Grants Committee for their consideration and are included as **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

In both funding options there are 24 applications which are being recommended for approval at this meeting. All of these applications are from groups that have been supported with funding from the Community Pool previously and have come to some extent to depend on this funding.

The loss of funding from other sources could result in some groups making supplementary applications to the Community Pool in the new financial year having to reduce services or cease their operation altogether. When expressions of interest were invited from groups the information that was sent to them at the time explained the financial pressures the Council were facing and that some difficult decisions may have to be made. However, Officers feel that it is important to stress that Hartlepool Borough Council via the Community Pool or otherwise does not have the resources to replace funding lost from other sources and that voluntary sector groups should take appropriate measures to reduce their dependency on grant funding. It would appear that many groups have taken action, have drawn up exit strategies and some have issued redundancy notices to staff.

Specific Issues relating to applications recommended for funding

Officers would like to highlight some specific issues relating to 4 applications which are being recommended for funding at this time. Clearly a 10% cut in

the size of the Community Pool would impact on the community generally. An Equality Impact Assessment aims to identify any negative impact in relation to those groups protected under equality legislation as well as ensuring good race relations are promoted. There are 4 groups which fall into the criteria of the assessment. Details of which follow:-

Harbour: The Harbour project is jointly funded by Stockton Borough Council. We have been advised that Stockton Borough Council will be supporting the project into 2011/2012. Therefore Officers are recommending that the grant awarded from the Community Pool for 2011/2012 is maintained at the same level as the award for 2010/2011 to enable the project to carry on. This being the case Officers are recommending that an award of £15,760 be approved for SEARCH.

Hartlepool Access Group: Shopmobility: Members are aware of the difficulties Shopmobility were having during 2009/2010. The group has made positive changes to its management and has reorganised its structure enabling the group to operate within its means. However, Shopmobility is still reliant on its funding from the Community Pool because the funding is matched with funding from PPG Ltd, who manage the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, this being the case if the grant from the Community Pool was reduced then the likelihood is that PPG would reduce their grant, which would have double the impact on Shopmobility. Therefore, Officers are recommending that any award to Shopmobility be maintained at the level that was approved in 2010/2011 which was £23,949.

The Salaam Centre: As a result of this work it has been established that The Salaam Centre could be affected by a reduction to its grant more than other groups because of the clientele it serves and the fact that it is the only organisation that works with the ethnic minority groups in Hartlepool. The centre is moving to new premises in March which is a critical point in the group's development. However, the running costs of the new building will be uncertain and the groups bid to the Community Pool for 2011/2012 was based upon estimates for the running of the new building. Therefore, any reduction in funding could cause the group serious financial pressures and could put at risk the successful relocation of The Salaam Centre. Officers are recommending that the grant to the Salaam Centre for 2011/2012 is maintained at 2010/2011 levels which is £15,850.

Hart Gables: As a result of carrying out the Equality Impact Assessment Officers are recommending that the award to Hart Gables is maintained at 2010/2011 levels. As Hart Gables is the only group in Hartlepool providing services specifically for the gay and lesbian community in Hartlepool Officers are recommending that an award of £11,556 is approved for 2011/2012.

5.5 Four: Deferred Applications

Officers are recommending that decision relating to the application by Radio Hartlepool be deferred until the next meeting of the Grants Committee. Radio Hartlepool has not yet achieved the quality assurance mark PQASSO.

Funding for the assessment was provided from the Community Pool in the current financial year. Also, the outcome of the Viewpoint survey is not known yet. Radio Hartlepool has been included in the survey which went out in January 2011. The findings of the survey will assist Officers to make an informed decision regarding the bid from Radio Hartlepool.

This being the case funding has not been ring fenced for this application and any future award would reduce the balance remaining for any applications from groups who may require consideration of further in-year support to safeguard their future.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 For the 2011/2012 financial year, a total of 28 applications have been made by community groups and voluntary organisations that provide services in Hartlepool. The value of the applications totals £722,158 which far exceeds the budget available of £497,790 which includes the roll forward of the balance of the 2010/2011 budget. **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3** provides a list of all the applications.
- 6.2 For 2011/12 it is strongly advised that option 1 for grant disbursement is selected. This is soundly based on the current criteria and is clearly based on fair and equitable reduction in grant as determined in the 2011/12 budget setting process fully approved at Council on 10 February 2011.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to approve/note:-

1. The end of year balance for 2010/2011 Community Pool currently £53,132, to be rolled forward into the 2011/2012 Community Pool budget.
2. The levels of budget allocated for Directed Lettings.
3. An award of £2,500 for Hartlepool Sports Council for their sports award scheme.
4. Consideration of the recommendations in **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3** and approval of funding Options 1 or 2.
5. Recommendations to defer the application from Radio Hartlepool as detailed in the body of the report.
6. 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.
7. The rejection of the applications from Red Dreams, Victim Support and Hartlepool Hospice as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report.
8. Any remaining balance of the Community Pool to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2011/2012 financial year subject to the funding option selected.

CONTACT OFFICER: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Child & Adult Services)

Background Papers

Applications to the Community Pool 2011/2012.

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

PUBLICATION DATE: 11th March 2011