

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

22 July 2011

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Robbie Payne (In the Chair)

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Hilary Thompson

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services
Susan Rybak, Community and Youth Resource Manager
Tracy Liveras, Young People and Play Co-ordinator
Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

7. Apologies for Absence

None.

8. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Hilary Thompson declared a personal interest in minute 11.

9. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2011

Received.

10. Civic Lottery Fund Grant Applications 2011/2012 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To advise and seek approval for the first round of Civic Lottery Fund Grant applications in 2011/2012 financial year.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

Members were informed that the total funding for distribution for 2011/2012 was £8,500 and it was noted that the current criteria for eligibility and distribution of the Civic Lottery Grant required the Grants Committee to consider applications three times a year. In previous years, the Grants Committee have agreed that £1,500 be made available for Senior Citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties. If the Grants Committee approves this approach for 2011/2012 financial year, then the balance available for distribution for the year will be £7,000. As in previous years, one third of the balance was distributed in each of the three meetings. If this approach was to be maintained, the amount available for distribution at this meeting and at each of the two remaining rounds was £2,333.

The report sought the consideration of the Grants Committee of the following:

- The general approach to the allocation of the funding available from the Civic Lottery in 2011/2012.
- The approach to the award of grants for Senior Citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties and approval of the delegation of authority to officers to approve these grants.
- 9 applications from local organisations, 4 of which have not previously been supported with funding from the Civic Lottery.

The report detailed the applications received where either no previous grants had been awarded or the grant applications were for second and subsequent requests.

A Member questioned whether the requests for awards for Senior Citizen's outings and parties were looked at individually against the ability to provide their own funding. The Assistant Director confirmed that each application was examined on its individual merits and that generally the grant requests were submitted from established groups or residential homes. It was acknowledged that the amount requested was quite modest.

Clarification was sought on the proposed allocation of grants and whether they were shared out pro rata against the total cost of the activity. The Community and Youth Resource Manager confirmed that the allocation of grant was calculated based on the organisations ability to raise funds themselves from elsewhere. The grant requests received tended to be required to fund a short fall in other funding arrangements.

A discussion ensued on the provision of grants to organisations to fund Council services and it was questioned it was necessary to provide organisations with Council funding to pay for Council services. The

Assistant Director confirmed that it would be difficult to process this in any other way in view of the number of organisations accessing different Council services.

Decision

1. The general approach to the allocation of the funding available for distribution in 2011/2012 which amounts to £8,500 was approved.
2. The approach to the award of grants for Senior Citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties, including setting aside of £1,500 for these applications as detailed in Section 3 of the report and delegating authority to approve these grants, in accordance with Civic Lottery Criteria, to the Director of Child and Adult Services was approved.
3. Grant aid to those organisations as recommended and detailed in **Appendix 2** was approved.

11. Directed Lettings 2011/2012 Hire of Premises by Voluntary/Community Groups *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report provided details of applications to the Directed Lettings Scheme and the hire of premises by voluntary/community groups.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Directed Lettings Scheme was established in 1996 to deal with applications for funding from community groups, who had benefited from free use of school premises for their meetings, prior to local Government reorganisation. Since reorganisation, to honour this arrangement, an allocation from the Community Pool for specific activities, including Directed Lettings was made at the beginning of each financial year. At the meeting of the Grants Committee on 1 March, 2011, Members approved an allocation of funding of £2,900 for Directed Lettings.

Through the Directed Lettings Scheme, support had previously been provided to Elwick Parish Council. The Council had a legal obligation to provide grant aid to the Parish Council in accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the total recommended to support Elwick Parish Council for the 2011/2012 financial year was £220.

Four additional applications had been received and assessed resulting in recommendations amounting to £2,224.40 being made towards the costs of five groups/organisations.

A discussion ensued on the provision of funding requested by the parish council and whether any other parish councils had applied for funding. The Assistant Director confirmed that this funding provision only applied to requests to fund the hire of school premises which the other parish councils may not use. The Assistant Director confirmed that a lot of the brownies and scouts groups were based around a particular school and had a close association with that school which was why the school premises were used.

Members noted that the number of community groups applying for this type of funding had reduced. The Assistant Director confirmed that this was either the result of groups ceasing to exist or moving to alternative premises.

Decision

Members approved the following levels of grant aid from the Community Pool Directed Lettings allocation for 2011/2012.

22nd Hartlepool Rainbows, Brownies, Guides	£580.00
34th Hartlepool Guides, Brownies, Rainbows	£675.00
1st Hartlepool Brownie Unit	£416.00
Hartlepool Swimming Club	£333.40
Elwick Parish Council	£220.00
Total of Recommendations	£2,224.40

12. Hartlepool Community Studio (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To update Members on the current position of Hartlepool Community Studio (The Studio) and present a request from the group to vary the terms of the Community Pool grant previously awarded for the 2011/2012 financial year.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

At previous meetings of the Grants Committee Members had been made aware of the recent difficulties that The Studio had faced with financial and staffing problems and the measures that the group had put in place to deal with those problems.

At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March 2010 Hartlepool Community Studio was awarded a grant of £9,562.50 for the 2011/2012 financial year as a contribution to the core costs of the organisation. However, the board of The Studio decided not to claim the grant and made plans to put The Studio into administration because of the financial pressures they were under. However, as the imminent liquidation of The Studio became public knowledge the members of the board were approached by five separate organisations to see how the charity could be saved.

Since then Hartlepool College of Further Education and Hartlepool College of Art have combined to offer a life line to The Studio. It was agreed that in order to stop The Studio from going into liquidation the Colleges came up with a package of financial support in order to pay off the debts The Studio had accumulated. In return The Studio agreed to a five year lease for the building with a renegotiation of the agreement at the end of that period. The colleges also agreed to cover the utility and maintenance costs of the building. The Colleges will use the building as premises for their student union activities on an extended daytime use.

Hartlepool Community Studio contacted officers to update them on their current situation and to ask if the terms of the grant awarded from the Community Pool on 1st March 2011 could be amended to enable the group to carry on with the work they do.

Officers recommended the approval of the request to amend the terms of the grant awarded for the period April to September 2011/12 for Hartlepool Community Studio. Officers recommended that a total of up to £6,200 be approved as a contribution to the initial 'start up' costs of The Studio. Details of which were included within the body of the report.

In response to clarification sought by a Member, the Assistant Director suggested that a programme of advance instalments over 3 quarters be agreed and it was hoped that The Studio would become self-sustaining after the first year. It was confirmed that this funding arrangement was a one-off arrangement to support the start up and launch arrangements for The Studio. However, it was noted that the community pool grant allocation process was currently under review and it may be that The Studio may qualify within the amended criteria to apply for funding from the community pool in the future but that had yet to be established and would be considered on its individual merits as with all other applications.

The Assistant Director confirmed that the Council's current representative on The Studio Management Committee was Councillor Ged Hall.

Members welcomed the news that The Studio would be re-launched in September and were encouraged that through the use and involvement of the local colleges, it would support and embellish the cultural and educational quarter of Hartlepool.

Decision

- (i) The change to the terms of the grant awarded to Hartlepool Community Studio for the current financial year was approved.
- (ii) Funding of up to £6,200 as a contribution to 'start up' costs for The Studio for the 2011/2012 financial year to be provided in quarterly advance instalments was approved.

13. Play Opportunities Pool Award 2011/2012 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report was to advise Members of applications to the Play Opportunities Pool and seek approval for recommended grant awards.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The total amount of Play Opportunities funding (2011-2012) available was £18,000.00.

The proposed awards for Play Opportunities Grants to the Voluntary Sector were as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Hartlepool Families First	£3522.64
Hartlepool PATCH	£601.00
Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group	£3500.00
Hartlepool Young Carers	£2710.00
CHILD Deaf Youth Project	£1174.93
Funky World CIC	£1635.00
Catcote Parent & Toddler Group	£1000.00

West View Project	£2460.00
TOTAL	£16,603.57

This leaves a balance of £1396.43, available for distribution.

A Member sought clarification on the number of sessions to be held by the Funky World Community Interest Company. The Young People and Play Co-ordinator confirmed that it would be three sessions per week.

A discussion ensued on the funding of management costs through the Play Opportunities Pool Award when this appeared to be funded through the Community Pool Award also. The Young People and Play Co-ordinator confirmed that each award only part funded the management costs in line with particular projects.

It was acknowledged that transportation costs for all of these organisations was significant and questioned whether any of the Council owned vehicles could be utilised. The Young People and Play Co-ordinator confirmed that the organisations were encouraged to utilise the most competitive form of transport but it was the choice of the organisation.

Decision

The following grant awards totalling £16,603.57 were approved:

- (i) A grant of £3522.64 to Hartlepool Families First to contribute towards, staff costs, management costs, purchase of additional resources and publicity costs to deliver 86 two hour sessions over holiday weeks.
- (ii) A grant of £601.00 to Hartlepool PATCH towards the cost of staff, resources and transport costs.
- (iii) A contribution of £3,500.00 to Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group towards the cost of volunteers, staff costs, transport and resources to deliver activities.
- (iv) A contribution of £2710.00 to Hartlepool Young Carers Positive Future Project towards the cost of transport to enable the young carers to access holiday activities.
- (v) The following contribution to the Child Deaf Youth Project totalling £1174.93: £510.93 towards costs for the summer **play-scheme** including staff, volunteers' expenses and transport; a contribution of £664.00 towards costs for the under 11's Youth Project for sessional staff, transport, administration and volunteer's expenses.
- (vi) A contribution of £1635.00 to the Funky World Community Interest Company towards the cost of staffing and venue hire.
- (vii) A contribution of £1,000.00 to the Catcote Parent and Toddler Group towards the purchase of identified play equipment and resources.
- (viii) A contribution of £2460.00 to West View Project towards staff costs and fuel to transport young people to activities located outside of Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 10.11 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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