

GRANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Tuesday 27 September 2011

at 4.00 pm

in Committee Room A, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GRANTS COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Brash, Hill and Payne

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 22 July 2011 (previously circulated).

4. KEY DECISIONS

No items.

5. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 5.1 Community Pool 2011/2012 – Round 4 – October 2011-March 2012 –
Director of Child and Adult Services

GRANTS COMMITTEE

27 September 2011



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: COMMUNITY POOL 2011/2012
ROUND 4 OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 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 the period October 2011 to March 2012.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March Members approved funding for the first six months of the financial year from the Community Pool. Funding was only approved for six months as a review of the Community Pool was being carried out. However, as this process is not yet completed Officers are recommending the approval of a further six months funding for those groups who were awarded funding for 2011/12. Information is included in the body of the report in relation to the progress of the review.

At recent meetings of the Grants Committee, Members have approved awards totalling £232,106 to voluntary/community groups providing services for the benefit of local people and groups. The current balance available for distribution is £286,232.32.

Appendix 2 provides a list of all the applications to the Community Pool for 2011/2012 and details the recommendations relating to those applications. All applications are being recommended for funding as the applications listed have been previously supported with funding from the Community Pool in the first half of the financial year. Information relating to the proposed expenditure of the grant is also provided. The total amount recommended in Round 4 is £220,506.

If Grants Committee confirm and approve the recommendations included as **Appendix 2**, the remaining balance of the Community Pool will be £65,726.32 to be committed at future meetings of the 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, 27th September, 2011.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members are requested to approve:-

1. The recommendations detailed in **Appendix 2**.
2. 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.
3. Any remaining balance of the Community Pool to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2011/2012 financial year.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: COMMUNITY POOL 2011/2012
ROUND 4 OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 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 the period October 2011 to March 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 £457,024 this includes a 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 made in response to the Council's reduction in funding. However, the roll forward of the balance of the 2010/2011 Community Pool budget was approved by the Grants Committee on 1st March 2011 making the total available to commit during the 2011/2012 financial year £516,034.
- 2.6 In rounds 1, 2, and 3 awards have been approved totalling £232,106. With the balance of the Directed Lettings allocation being added back to the budget and an under-spend on an award for 2010/2011 which has been deducted from the groups award for the current year, also added back, there is a balance of £286,232.32 to be committed.

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.
- 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 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 according to the prevailing circumstances of the group to monthly or quarterly payments.

4. GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2011/2012 – OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 2012

- 4.1 At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March 2011 Members approved funding for 24 voluntary and community groups for the first half of the current financial year. As the Community Pool was being reviewed, Members took a cautious approach and therefore only agreed funding up until the end of September 2011. The requirement to undertake a fundamental review of the Community pool categories for support and underlying criteria is a lengthy process, particularly as time for consultation and feedback is required. The original timescale of six months was always extremely tight. Whilst the review is due to be considered at Cabinet on the 10th October, this leaves little time to complete the criteria and application guidelines. Assuming the

developing proposals are accepted, several of the categories seek single or consortia bids to the Community Pool. These will require time for the Community Groups to meet and agree on consortia bid protocols. As a result your officers are recommending the approval of an additional six months funding for those groups awarded funding from April to September 2011.

- 4.2 As detailed in paragraph 2.7 of this report, the current budget available for distribution is £286,232.32.

Applications Recommended for Funding

- 4.3 **Appendix 2** provides a list of all the applications to the Community Pool for 2011/2012 and details the recommendations relating to those applications. All applications are being recommended for funding as the applications listed have been previously supported with funding from the Community Pool in the first half of the financial year. The total recommended for funding in Round 4 is £220,506. Information relating to the proposed expenditure of the grant is also provided.
- 4.4 If Grants Committee approves the recommendations included as **Appendix 2** the balance of the Community Pool remaining will be £65,726.32 to be committed at future meetings of the Grants Committee.

5. THE REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY POOL

- 5.1 The review of the Community Pool has not yet concluded. However, feedback on the proposals for change have been sought and received from the voluntary sector with varying opinions being expressed on the proposals. A synopsis of the comments received from the voluntary sector is included as **Appendix 3**. Also, on 2nd September 2011 the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (SCC) considered the proposals and has made comment. The findings of the review, to date, are scheduled to be presented to Mayors Briefing on 19th September 2011 and Cabinet on 10th October 2011. The new proposals require implementation for the 2012/13 financial year whatever the outcome of the review.
- 5.2 When six month funding was authorised in March, all groups were written to indicating that change was planned and that not all currently funded groups could expect to retain funding. It is now appropriate to be more specific in respect to certain groups and effectively give formal notice that any additional six month funding will be the last from this source unless they fit into the new categories or have a valid reason to apply for the proposed 'one off' challenge funding. The requirement to give six months notice to all groups is extremely important to enable them to plan for a future without funding from this particular targeted priority grant.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The budget for 2011/2012 has been set at £457,024 and the balance of the 2010/2011 budget was approved to be rolled forward making the taking balance available for 2011/2012 £516,034. At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March 2011 Members approved awards to 24 community groups and voluntary organisations for the first six months of the financial year. **Appendix 2** provides a list of all the applications recommended for funding and information relating to the expenditure of the grant is also provided.
- 6.2 The review of the Community Pool is yet to conclude. Presentation of the findings to date will be made to Cabinet. Once the proposals have been approved, the criteria developed and finalised will be implemented to take effect in time for the new financial year.
- 6.3 For the eligible groups to be in a position to develop their consortia and individual bids for 2012/13 the new criteria require to be published as soon as possible. It is essential that those community groups successful in achieving support receive their funding from the 1st April 2012. Meanwhile to secure stability to all current groups the 2nd half year grant is required to be approved at today's meeting.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to approve:-

1. The recommendations as detailed in **Appendix 2**.
2. 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.
3. Any remaining balance of the Community Pool to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2011/2012 financial year.

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

Background Papers

Applications to the Community Pool 2011/2012.

Review of the Community Pool – report to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 2/09/11



HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY POOL 2011/2012

CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

The main aim of the Community Pool is 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 and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

HARTLEPOOL AMBITION

COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY 2008-2020

Within the main strategic document, there are 8 aims and themes, which are clearly set out as priorities:-

- Jobs and the Economy
- Life Long Learning and Skills
- Health Care
- Community Safety
- Environment
- Housing
- Culture and Leisure
- Strengthening the Communities

CORPORATE STRATEGY

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.

Community Pool resources are targeted to vulnerable sectors of the community and to those organisations delivering effective and appropriate services that complement the Authority's strategic aims, "to empower individuals, groups and communities and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives".

Within the Strengthening Communities theme are a number of objectives which groups funded from the Community Pool can collaborate with the Council to achieve its corporate objectives:-

- To empower local people to take a greater role in the planning and delivery of services and strategies that affect their individual lives, their local neighbourhood and the wider community.
- To increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially "hard to reach" groups and those communities affected.
- To improve the accessibility of services and information ensuring that providers address the varied needs and requirements of the whole community.
- To fully value the voluntary and community sector and to support them to secure their long-term future through contracted service delivery, promoting volunteering and the agreement of longer term funding settlements.
- To ensure Hartlepool is a cohesive community where there is a sense of belonging for all and where people of different backgrounds, circumstances and generations are able to get along free from discrimination and harassment.

In order to identify the most disadvantaged communities for the purposes of assessing applications to the Community Pool, the rankings found in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 will be used to ascertain the nature of deprivation in Hartlepool.

The following ward is in the top **1%** of deprived wards nationally: **Stranton**.

The following wards are in the top **5%** of deprived wards nationally: **Owton, Dyke House, Brus, St Hilda**.

The following wards are in the top 10% of deprived wards nationally: **Grange, Rift House.**

Groups targeting areas of greatest disadvantage in the town will receive a higher priority for funding.

Weightings will be applied to grant applications depending on the location of the applicant organisation and the area they serve.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

The Community Pool funding categories are as follows:-

(i) PROVIDERS OF SERVICES THAT ARE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. This includes:-

Those groups/organisations that provide services to support disadvantaged individuals. Groups may require specialist expertise, e.g. Legal advice, debt counselling, and self-improvement opportunities.

Applications from those groups providing services that directly complement the services provided by the local authority and are considered strategically important will receive priority particularly those who provide:-

- Legal advice and guidance.
- Income generation, credit union support and debt counselling.
- Voluntary sector infrastructure support: accreditation, management, fundraising.
- Counselling services.

(ii) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES. This includes:-

those groups which support the development of community capacity, including the formation of tenants and residents groups, and seek to improve interaction between local residents and statutory service providers, including local partnerships and networks and groups working proactively to facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged sectors, to encourage them on to the first step and then signpost them onto provision elsewhere, if necessary, providing support and training to encourage self help.

Applications from local community groups, particularly those who actively provide:-

- Advocacy in relation to issues affecting the voluntary sector.
- Support to strengthen voluntary sector infrastructure; accreditation, management.
- Support with fundraising.
- Support to volunteers.
- Development of capacity building projects/activities.

(iii) ESTABLISHED GROUPS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN SUPPORTED FROM THE COMMUNITY POOL

Groups who are considered to be established i.e. who have been fully constituted for in excess of 2 years, who have not been awarded grant aid from the Community Pool previously can apply for financial support if they are meeting the aims and objectives of the Community Pool.

(iv) OTHER ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS. This includes:-

All applications, which do not fall into the other 3 categories, but provide valuable services with measurable outcomes for the benefit of Hartlepool residents living in the most disadvantaged wards, can be considered for funding.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY POOL

Funding is offered on a two-tier system.

➤ 3 YEAR REVENUE TAPERED GRANT

Groups can apply for a 3 year tapered funding agreement in principle subject to budgetary availability. In the second and third years of the agreement, grant recipients will be afforded, in principle, 75% and then 50% of the award made in Year 1. Under this scheme, groups cannot apply for funding from the Community Pool in year 4.

➤ 1 YEAR REVENUE TAPERED GRANT

1 year funding with applications being processed alongside all others in subsequent years.

Grant aid will only be approved for revenue funding to support organisational running costs. A funding formula will be applied with the main priority being the staffing costs of a group. Key posts within an organisation, as identified by the Community Resources Manager, can be supported with a percentage of salary costs.

Applicants should note that:-

Capital works will not be supported, i.e.

New applications for initiatives in areas currently benefiting from regeneration initiative funding will receive a lower priority.

Play initiatives will receive a lower priority because of the alternative funding sources e.g. Play Opportunities Pool.

There is no upper limit in relation to the amount applied for from the Community Pool, but applications for less than £5,000 will not be considered from the Community Pool but will be signposted to other funders.

MONITORING OF GRANT AID

All grant aid is managed through a funding agreement, which includes the terms and conditions, under which grant aid has been awarded.

The spend and the outputs/benefits relating to the grant will be monitored and if it is found that grant aid has not been spent appropriately or outputs/benefits not achieved then measures may be taken to reclaim the grant.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Groups applying to the Community Pool will be given the opportunity to appeal against a decision made by the Grants Committee in respect of their application for funding. An appeal must be made in writing, as it will be presented to the Grants Committee for their consideration.

11.09.27 5.1 Grants Cttee Community Pool 2011-2012 Appendix 2

COMMUNITY POOL 2011/2012 (OCT 2011 - MAR 2012)			
APPLICANT GROUP & ROLE OF THE GROUP	SIX MONTHS FUNDING REJECT/DEFER	NOTES PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF GRANT	
CATEGORY 1: PROVIDERS OF SERVICES THAT ARE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE			
WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE	£ 13,103.00	Contribution to salary costs Centre Manager,	
Provider of welfare benefits advice, information		& Advice Manager	
and support to the local community			
HARTLEPOOL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	£ 36,130.00	Contribution to salary costs Bureau Manager,	
Provider of advice and information debt advice,		Deputy Manager, Telephone Advice Worker,	
employment law, welfare benefits, community care		Admin/Finance Officer	
HARBOUR SUPPORT SERVICES: SEARCH	£ 7,880.00	Contribution to salary costs of 1 p/t	
Provider of counselling and support services to male		Counsellor & Adminstrator	
and female survivors of rape and sexual abuse			
HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP:	£ 11,974.50	Contribution to salary costs Manager, 2 p/t	
SHOPMOBILITY		Equipment Workers & Book Keeper & running costs	
Provider of mobility equipment to enable disabled people			
to travel around the town independently			
HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION LTD	£ 16,793.00	Contribution to salary costs Membership Supervisor,	
Provider of credit union facility to tackle financial		Membership Officer, Collector & contribution to	
exclusion		rent & running costs	
HARTLEPOOL CARERS	£ 14,249.00	Contribution to salary costs Manager	
Provision of support of local carers to improve the		& Administrator	
quality of life for all people who are looking after			
somebody through the provision of advice, information			
and development of services.			

11.09.27 5.1 Grants Cttee Community Pool 2011-2012 Appendix 2

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11.09.27 5.1 Grants Cttee Community Pool 2011-2012 Appendix 2

APPLICANT GROUP & ROLE OF THE GROUP	SIX MONTHS FUNDING	NOTES
	REJECT/DEFER	PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF GRANT
CATEGORY 3: ESTABLISHED GROUPS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN SUPPORTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS		
RED DREAMS	£2,896.00	Contribution to core costs including utilites, internet, telephone and insurance
A resource for young people encouraging individuals or groups of young people within the arts including performing, visual, media and written arts as a means of advancing their lives, developing their skills, capacities and capabiliites		
CATEGORY 4:OTHER ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS		
WEST VIEW PROJECT	£9,388.00	Contribution to salary costs Development Manager & Administrator
Provider of activities including sports and adventure training for the benefit of the community including children and young people		
THE ORB CENTRE	£2,250.00	Contribution to salary costs of two p/t Youth Workers (min award)
Provider of activities for young people from the Foggy Furze, Stranton and Dyke House wards		
HEADLAND FUTURE	£5,670.00	Contribution to the salary costs of an Operations Manager
Facilitator and provider of a wide range of activities for young people and the community as a whole		
EPILEPSY OUTLOOK	£4,177.50	Contribution to salary costs Manager
Provider of support to suffers of epilepsy and their families and carers		
OWTON MANOR WEST NWATCH & RES ASN	£6,277.00	Contribution to salary costs Centre Manager & Administrator
Facilitator and provider of activities/services for the local community (NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY IN 2010/2011)		

11.09.27 5.1 Grants Cttee Community Pool 2011-2012 Appendix 2

APPLICANT GROUP & ROLE OF THE GROUP	SIX MONTHS FUNDING REJECT/DEFER	NOTES PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF GRANT	
CATEGORY 4:OTHER ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS CONTINUED			
HARTLEPOOL CATHOLIC BOXING CLUB	£2,250.00	Contribution to rent (minimum award)	
Provider of facility for training and competitive boxing for the benefit of young people			
BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & YOUTH CTRE	£10,171.50	Contribution to salary costs Finance Officer & Caretaker	
Provider of a wide range of services for the local community including sports facilities and community rooms to hire and accomodation for other voluntary organisations			
HART GABLES	£5,200.00	Contribution to salary costs Manager & Finance Worker	
Provider of support to the lesbian, bi-sexual, gay and trans-sexual community in Hartlepool.			
MAKING A DIFFERENCE	£3,864.00	Contribution to salary costs Project Co-ordinator and lease costs	
Provider of counselling services, practical support and information for young people who are experiencing emotional distress and/or have behavioural problems.			
VOLUNTARY WHEELS	£2,833.00	Contribution to salary costs Co-ordinator Driver	
Provider of affordable community transport scheme.			
HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST	£12,310.50	Contribution to salary costs Manager, Finance Officer & Senior Street Worker	
Provider of a range of services including the Health Bus, the Play Bus, an after school and holiday play including the Street project formerly known as RESPECT			
WYNYARD CAFÉ.COM	£2,250.00	Contribution to salary costs Manager/ Cook (min award)	
Community café serving healthy menu choices.			
RECOMMENDATIONS	£220,506.00		

BASE BUDGET 2011/2012	£	457,024.00	
Reserves approved to accrue	£	59,010.00	
Total to commit 2011/12	£	516,034.00	
TOTAL COMMITMENTS ROUND 1,2,3	£	232,106.00	
BALANCE AVAILABLE IN ROUND 4	£	283,928.00	
plus BALANCE OF DIRECTED LETTINGS	£	675.60	
plus OVERPAYMENT 2010/11	£	1,628.72	
TOTAL AVAILABLE ROUND 4	£	286,232.32	
TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS ROUND 4	£	220,506.00	
BALANCE	£	65,726.32	
BALANCE LEFT TO COMMIT 2011/12	£	65,726.32	

**COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM VOLUNTARY SECTOR
GROUPS REGARDING PROPOSALS TO REVIEW
COMMUNITY POOL - AUGUST 2011**

<p><u>HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP</u></p> <p>Pleased that the category to which HAG fits into still remains as grant support because HAG is not yet in a position to be able to enter into the commissioning process with HBC.</p>	
<p><u>HARTLEPOOL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU</u></p> <p>The amount allocated for the Universal Welfare Benefit Advice Service is not enough to meet the financial and infrastructure needs of the key providers. This category should be given greater priority the allocation for this category should be in the region of £150k. The category description is misleading as local residents have advice needs over an above welfare benefits which should be recognised by the Community Pool allocation.</p> <p>The grants that are proposed may be spread too thinly and in doing so not benefit any organisation in being able to carry on providing the services they currently provide.</p> <p>When grants are allocated the volume of activity of the organisation, the number of volunteers used by the organisation, financial benefits for the community/individuals as a result of the work of the organisation should be taken into account.</p> <p>It is difficult to see how the 'consortium' idea would work in practice. This could lead to a very competitive situation and much jockeying for position with the proposed consortium.</p> <p>Hartlepool Citizens Advice Bureau as well as offering welfare benefit advice also offers advice in relation to debt, financial matters, employment law, consumer advice, taxes, housing and homelessness, community care and health etc.</p> <p>Without adequate core funding the CAB will cease to exist. The 'core staff' at the CAB is involved in day-to-day advice work in addition to all of their other duties and responsibilities.</p> <p>Is there going to be any public consultation on the allocation of Community Pool monies?</p>	

<p><u>HARTLEPOOL VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY</u></p> <p>Category 1 – broadly supportive</p> <p>Category 2 – broadly supportive</p> <p>Category 3 – broadly supportive but in addition this category should include a separate allocation for a town wide capacity building/infrastructure/strategic liaison body for the VCS. This town wide role is a discreet/distinct role that is recommended in the VCS Strategy.</p> <p>Category 4 – broadly supportive</p> <p>Category 5 – The level of funding is too high as VCS groups can access one off grants for this purpose this allocation of funding for this category could be reduced and reallocated to the other categories. It may be necessary to award funding in consecutive years which may require any supported group to be moved to one of the other funding categories (if appropriate).</p> <p>Consortia working – this is problematic - If there is duplication of effort or cost savings that could be made by shared back office functions this could be identified in the grant assessment process. A requirement of funding could be that discussions take place between relevant groups as part of the assessment process.</p> <p>Where a decision is made to no longer support a group that has received support for consecutive years other options should be explored to support the group e.g. a low level contract as part of HBC's commissioning process.</p> <p>Allocation of funding to the funding categories should be flexible dependant on the size and scope of the applications</p>	
<p><u>HEADLAND FUTURE</u></p> <p>The proposals seem likely to harm Hartlepool groups and risk funds being diverted to organisations outside of the locale.</p> <p>Without core funding support organisations may be less likely to lever in funding from outside of Hartlepool.</p> <p>Applications for funding should be assessed without reference to the previous year's award and the way the award is allocated should be made clear and made available to applicants.</p> <p>The switch to commissioned schemes seems to open up the opportunity of non Hartlepool groups bidding for contracts. As these contracts would have to be advertised groups from outside of Hartlepool could apply this could harm outcomes for local residents. Community spirit could be damaged by large</p>	

<p>scale commissioning that sees residents groups potentially dissolved.</p> <p>The rationale for listing a select group of agencies is not clear. If the groups listed are all supported it could create the perception that the process is unfair.</p> <p>Hartlepool Credit Union seems to have been given its own funding strand, this does not seem to be reasonable.</p> <p>The substantial commitment to capacity building in the proposed budget is questionable. The money would be better spent supporting core costs and delivery costs for delivery organisations.</p> <p>The pairing of development and investment grants and support to groups that are experiencing difficulties is concerning. If they are to be included in the same category an amount should be ring-fenced for emergency aid otherwise there seems the risk that the entire pot could be diverted to supporting agencies. Some guidance for supporting organisations through emergency aid should be established. The use of the terms 'development grants' and 'investment grants' is ambiguous. More information is required about this funding strand.</p> <p>The major changes suggested should not proceed.</p>	
<p><u>HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE</u></p> <p>The group disagrees with the statement 'duplication of like minded groups'. Many groups in Hartlepool offer similar services/support this is due to the diverse needs of the community. A consortium would still need to have access to the same level of funding to provide these services. If the services are cut then support to the community is cut.</p> <p>The importance (not dependence) of Community Pool funding cannot be underestimated. Core funding is the hardest of all funding to achieve and helps to draw down other funding.</p> <p>A consortia approach would be very difficult as the voluntary sector is very diverse. Commissioned services need to be clearly defined by HBC and many groups are not in a position to enter into commissioning.</p> <p>Hartlepool People is best place to provide anonymity to those requiring specialist support. It would be difficult to compare neighbourhood based centres with a town wide provision.</p> <p>Hartlepool People has not changed its direction to meet funding streams and has proven to have a sustainable model providing long term employment for its employees. Hartlepool People has kept the funding request within inflation year-on-year.</p> <p>Hartlepool People has been in existence for 28 years it has brought in over £4m of funding to the town, employed over 200 people, offered a positive</p>	

volunteering experience to thousands of people and purchased through asset transfer the building they have run service from since 1983.	
<p><u>WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE</u></p> <p>Ten groups who were previously supported are not identified as to receive future support. More than half of these groups focus on working with young people. Is there alternative support available to ensure that we don't lose these services? This could have a negative impact on the wider community.</p> <p>Categories 1 & 2 – Clearly aimed to encourage partnership working which should be encouraged with commissioning/procurement requirements this could leave organisations vulnerable as national organisations with local interest could be awarded the contracts or that any lead organisation in a consortia would top slice the available funding, reducing the amount available to be spent on delivery.</p>	
<p><u>WEST VIEW PROJECT</u></p> <p>The Council needs to see groups as an enhancement to the services to local residents and not as threats to Council services. If we all work together we can provide a more varied program and cost effective service.</p> <p>Option 3 – The Radical One/The Supportive One. Understanding the need to develop a partnership approach to funding applications, it is essential that HBC concentrates its efforts on ensuring the survival of its voluntary sector groups during the current economic climate.</p> <p>If all the groups who are currently funded took a 10% cut in their 1/10/11 – 31/3/12 budget the Council could then make 18 month awards to these groups. The benefit to the community would be that all of these services would be saved until March 2013 giving both the services and the Council ample time to develop a partnership approach to working/funding. Establishing a working group should be the next step.</p> <p>Grants are far easier to manage and more cost effective than making everything go through the whole commissioning process. Grants allow HBC to support local groups.</p>	