

# **GRANTS COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

27 September 2011

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Robbie Payne (In the Chair)

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Jonathan Brash

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services  
Susan Rybak, Community and Youth Resource Manager  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **14. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cath Hill.

### **15. Declarations of interest by Members**

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Robbie Payne declared a prejudicial interest in minute 17 – Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre and Councillor Jonathan Brash declared an interest in minute 17 – Hartlepool Families First.

### **16. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2011**

Received.

### **17. Community Pool 2011/2012 – Round 4 – October 2011 – March 2012** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non key.

#### **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.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March 2011, 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 was not yet completed, Officers were recommending the approval of a further six months funding for those groups who were awarded funding for 2011/12. Information was included in the body of the report in relation to the progress of the review.

At recent meetings of the Grants Committee, Members 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 provided a list of all the applications to the Community Pool for 2011/2012 and detailed the recommendations relating to those applications. All applications were being recommended for funding as the applications listed had 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 was 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.

The Assistant Director, Community Services commented that feedback from local groups was that they recognised that due to the Council's current financial position and the level of budgetary savings required, they expected changes to the availability of grant funding from the Council.

Clarification was sought on the timescales for applications and awarding of grant funding and a Member suggested that any decision to award grant funding towards the end of this financial year for 2012/13 should be complete at the beginning of March to enable local groups to manage their funding requirements.

A discussion ensued on the requirement to look at commissioning and it was suggested that wherever possible, this should be identified as local commissioning to enable as many local groups to effectively participate as possible.

Due to the declaration of interest made by two Members of the Committee in relation to the application for funding from the Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, it was noted that this application should be deferred to the next available meeting of Cabinet.

## **Decision**

- (i) The recommendations detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved with the exception of the application from Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre be deferred to the next available meeting of Cabinet.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Any remaining balance of the Community Pool to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2011/12 financial year.

The meeting concluded at 4.14 pm

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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