

# **GRANTS COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006

**Present:**

Councillors The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Victor Tumilty

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)  
Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention  
Sue Rybak, Grants Officer  
Joe Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator  
Tracy Liveras, Young People and Play Co-ordinator  
Penny Thompson, Children's Centre and Childcare Co-ordinator  
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Leader  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

### **7. Appointment of Chair**

In the absence of Councillor Payne Councillor Tumilty was appointed Chair for this meeting.

### **8. Apologies for Absence**

None

### **9. Declarations of interest by members**

None

### **10. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006**

Agreed

### **11. Civic Lottery Grant Applications** *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

**Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To consider Civic Lottery Grant Applications.

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

The report sought the Committee's consideration of the following:-

- applications where no previous grants had been awarded.
- applications where grants had previously been awarded

Following consideration of the information provided Members expressed support for the applications.

### **Decision**

(i) The following allocation of grants was approved:-

Application number	Organisation	£
3179	Hartlepool Snooker Centre	
	Sunday Football League	480*
3203	Headland Pastimes Association	500
3211	Hartlepool Handy Crafts	500
3212	Serenity	500
3213	High Flyers Trampoline Group	500
3214	Hartlepool Kids Combat Club	500
3217	Preston Simpson Scholarship in Music	500*
3219	Hartlepool Headland Amateur Boxing Club	435*
3221	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group	500*
3222	Hartlepool Boys Brigade Old Boys	500
3223	Manor West Youth Project	500

(\* Organisations that have previously received Civic Lottery Grants)

## **12 Play Opportunities Pool Award 2006/2007** *(Director of Children's Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To advise members of applications to the Play Opportunities Pool and to seek approval for recommended grant awards.

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

Grant aid totalling £18,000 annually is available to community groups and voluntary organisations to enable them to provide play opportunities throughout the year, thereby complimenting the Authority's play provision. The provision of play grants also enables groups to provide play to meet local needs, especially in areas of disadvantage to assist local people on limited incomes.

Grant Awards are used as a contribution towards the cost of a play opportunity, with the Authority's funding acting as a magnet to attract match funding. In total, two applications have been assessed with requests from the Grants Pool towards staff, volunteers, transport, equipment etc. Grant aid of £20,571.50, in total was available for the year 2006/2007. This was made up of £18,000 from the grants' budget and £2571.50 relating to an under spend of grant aid to Hartlepool Families First awarded in 2005/2006 and approved to be accrued to this financial year..

Details of the groups requesting funding were set out in the report together with an outline of what schemes the groups were proposing that the grant would be utilised for.

### **Decision**

That the grant awards below totalling £1,472.71 be approved: -

**Greatham Playgroup** - A contribution of £483.00 towards the cost of toys and resources

**Buzzy Bees Fun Club** - A contribution of £989.71 to contribute towards staff, administration and management costs.

## **13. Community Pool 2006/2007** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To advise members of 5 applications to the Community Pool and to seek approval for grant awards for 4 groups from remaining funds.

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

The Community Pool provides financial assistance to community groups and voluntary organisations with £455,540 being available during 2006/2007. To date, grants had been awarded to 29 groups totalling £346,472.75 leaving a balance of £109,067.

#### **Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA)**

The HVDA was established in 1986 and provides a wide range of support and development including working with volunteers and voluntary and community groups, building links and developing partnerships with agencies and distributing funding through Community Chests. HVDA have supported 372 groups in this current year, assisting them to raise £641,718 from external sources. However, this work was now under threat as HVDA had a shortfall in core funding.

At the Grants Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 Members awarded HVDA a grant of £28,403 as a contribution towards the core costs of the group, including a 50% contribution towards the salary costs of 2 key posts, Manager and Finance Officer. Additional grant aid of £19,041 had been requested, representing the shortfall in core funding that HVDA had identified and made up of a contribution to the salary cost of 3 posts, Manager, Finance Officer and Resource and Regeneration Officer. However when processing applications to the Community Pool usually 2 key posts within an organisation were identified for funding. A change in this approach would require member approval. Officers recommended that given the posts in question make up the core activity of the group this could warrant additional support from the Community Pool and that a contribution to the salary costs of the Resources and Regeneration Officer be awarded with no precedent set for future applications.

#### **Headland Development Trust (HDT)**

Headland Development Trust (HDT) is a community led organisation which promotes for the public benefit urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (in particular the Headland) by a variety of means. They are currently taper funded through the Community Pool for their Capacity Building Project which provides Capacity Building support to other groups working in the Headland area providing services for the benefit of local people.

An application of £16,166 had been made to the Community Pool for the provision of an information, advice and guidance services. The need for this service had been identified through the Capacity Building Project with staff having dealt with over 1,000 enquiries in the last year. The plan was to gain quality assurance status via the Matrix Assessment to ensure the service was provided in a professional manner. The costs for this were included in the

application.

At the Grants Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 an award of £7,339 was approved for HDT as a contribution towards the costs of the Capacity Building Project. Given that the application was for funding for a new initiative and the HDT were already in receipt of a grant from the Community Pool in this financial year, officers recommended that this application be refused.

Officers would signpost HDT to other sources of funding to enable them to undergo the matrix assessment.

### **Hartlepool People**

Hartlepool People is a townwide voluntary organisation running a large community resource centre dedicated to promoting and addressing the needs of the people of Hartlepool. Their main aim is to develop personal skills, self confidence and quality of life of local residents. In the period April 2005 to March 2006 Hartlepool People recorded over 23,000 visits to the centre, with 55 different groups making use of the facilities on offer.

At the Grants Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 a grant of £12,719 was approved as a contribution towards the Managers salary costs. Although fundraising had been ongoing since then Hartlepool People had only been successful in securing a small amount of additional grant aid to make up the shortfall. They had therefore applied to the Community Pool for £15,770 for the unsecured portion of the Manager's salary and other core running costs. Other issues relating to the application were highlighted to members. Officers recommended approval of a grant of £7,376.

### **Hartlepool Community Studio (The Studio)**

Hartlepool Community Studio seeks to promote, maintain and advance the education of the public in the appreciation and practice of participatory arts and associated disciplines. The Studio provides rehearsal and recording facilities for musicians and has a venue where all genres of music are performed. In the period April 2005 to March 2006 220 people accessed the recording studios, 174 of whom were unwaged. In addition the Studio has provided a venue for approximately 1,200 performing artists attracting 14,358 attendances. Training in sound recording is also provided.

An award of £11,868 had been approved at the Grants Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 as a contribution towards the core costs of Hartlepool Community Studio, including a contribution to the salary costs of a Manager's post and an administrator's post. Earlier in the year a "root and branch" review of The Studio had been commissioned by Hartlepool Borough Council when it became obvious that there were financial and organisational difficulties. A subsequent report had highlighted the main areas of concern and offered a non-nonsense approach to dealing with the group's difficulties. Changes had been implemented in response to these findings and the result was savings of approximately £30,000, leaving a shortfall of £21,900.

Hartlepool Community Studio had applied to the Community Pool for £21,900 and members were recommended to approve £10,950 which would be a 50% contribution to this shortfall. This would contribute towards staffing costs, ensuring that the core operation of The Studio be maintained. Officers highlighted that without this funding it was likely The Studio would not survive.

### **Epilepsy Outlook**

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, declared a non-prejudicial interest as a family member worked as a volunteer for this organisation.

Epilepsy Outlook has been established for 19 years with the aim of providing support, advice and information to people with epilepsy, their families and carers within a confidential and supportive environment. They also provide Epilepsy Awareness sessions to other agencies and groups. Epilepsy Outlook has one paid member of staff, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, and 34 unpaid volunteers.

In the period April 2006 to September 2006 Epilepsy Outlook received 161 enquiries for advice information or ongoing support. Four awareness sessions were delivered to 43 health and social care workers and 34 volunteers are currently being supported through the Volunteer Development Programme. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 Grants Committee members awarded the group a £6,902 grant as a contribution towards their core costs, a 40% contribution towards the salary costs of the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Epilepsy Outlook had applied to the Community Pool for £9,855, the shortfall for core costs in this financial year. This represented £5,255 salary costs and £4,600 running costs. Officers recommended that £5,255 be approved as a contribution to the salary costs of the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

### **Decision**

1. That the applications for the following awards be approved
  - i. Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency £14,243
  - ii. Hartlepool People £7,376
  - iii. Hartlepool Community Studio £10,950
  - iv. Epilepsy Outlook £5,255
2. That the application by the Headland Development Trust be refused
3. That the balance of the 2006/2007 Community Pool, £71,243, be accrued into the 2007/2008 financial year, subject to any further demands on the Community Pool.

## 14. **Community Safety Capital Grant Allocation** *(Head of Community Safety and Prevention)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-Key

### **Purpose of report**

To advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek approval for recommended grant awards

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

The Council had decided that its capital budget for 2006/07 would include an allocation of £150,000 to implement community safety projects associated with and contributing to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and drugs. Following an overspend of £14,321 in 2005/06 this had been reduced to £135,679.

Details of the objectives contained in the Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy and the criteria against which project proposals were judged, were outlined and attention drawn to the following applications for grant funding each of which had been recommended for approval by the Community Safety Officer Group:

- **Burbank 'Reclaim your back lane' project** – funding for fencing of the open space in to the backstreet opposite the industrial estate to provide a safe environment for children to play as well as protecting homes from rear entry break-ins. Members expressed their support for the scheme.
- **Stranton Garth Gardens Regeneration** – funding for design improvement to Stranton Garth Gardens and associated remodelling improvements to the highway. Members expressed their support for the scheme.
- **Church Street Environmental Improvements** – funding for the removal of four concrete planters on Church Street. Members expressed their support for the scheme.

### **Decision**

i) The following Community Safety capital contributions were approved.

- **Burbank 'Reclaim your back lane' project** – funding of £7,000 toward fencing of the open space in to the backstreet opposite the industrial estate to provide a safe environment for children to play as well as protecting homes from rear entry break-ins.
- **Stranton Garth Gardens Regeneration** – funding of £20,000 toward

design improvements to Stranton Garth Gardens and associated  
remodelling improvements to the highway

- **Church Street Environmental Improvements** – funding of £15,000 toward the removal of four concrete planters on Church Street.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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