

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

12th March 2007

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Robbie Payne (In the Chair), Victor Tumilty

Officers: Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Adult and Community Services
Diane Whitehead, Planning and Implementation Officer
Sue Rybak, Grants Officer
Brian Robinson, Operations Manager
Jo Dickinson, Business Support Officer
Jo Hogan, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Clare Clark, New Deal for the Communities
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also Present Liz Carter, Hartlepool Community Studio

20. Apologies for Absence

None.

21. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

22. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2007

Received.

23. 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 all applications. In the case of the San Gai Karate Club, the Active8 Centre Partnership however, Members requested further information on the function and activities of the group before giving consideration to the application.

Decision

The following allocation of grants was approved:-

Application number	Organisation	£
3226	Hartlepool and District Hospice	500*
3228	Model Rail Hartlepool	500
3229	Hartlepool Sports Council	500*
3230	Hartlepool Town FC	500*

(* Organisations that have previously received Civic Lottery Grants)

24. Play Opportunities Pool Award 2007/08 (*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 £18,849 for 2007/08 was 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 enabled 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, six applications had been assessed with requests from the Grants Pool towards staff, volunteers, transport, equipment etc. Grant awards were 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, six applications had been assessed with requests from the Grants Pool towards staff, volunteers, transport, equipment etc totalling £15,634.31. The remaining balance being £3,214.69.

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 £15,634.31 be approved: -

C.H.I.L.D. Deaf Youth Project - A contribution of £1,354.31 towards the costs for the summer play scheme, including staff, volunteers' expenses and transport and the under 11's youth provision for staff, transport administration and volunteers' expenses.

Hartlepool Special Needs Support Scheme - A contribution of £3,190.00 towards the cost of transport, paid sessional staff and volunteers and administration.

Manor Residents' Association – A contribution of £1,580.00, being the balance of the cost of the schemes, towards transport costs.

West View Project – A contribution of £4,725.00 towards staff and transportation.

Buzzy Bees Fun Club- A contribution of £2,185.00 towards staff costs and management costs to operate the Buzzy Bee Fun Club.

Hartlepool Families First – A contribution of £2,600.00 towards salary and associated costs as detailed within the report to cover 3 hours per

week in the south area of the town.

25. Youth Service Grant to Abbey Street (Headland Future) Voluntary Youth Project for 2007/08 (*Director of Children's Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To consider details and seek Members' approval of a grant award for the support of youth work at the Abbey Street Voluntary Youth Project.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The report advised that the Youth Service supported voluntary youth groups which were complementary in contributing to town-wide provision for young people 13-19 years. Grants were assessed against criteria involving need (where services were required) and the potential of the voluntary organisations to contribute to the Youth Service's outcomes and targets. Abbey Street Voluntary Youth Project continued to successfully meet both criteria. Any grant issued was on the basis of delivering a specification which detailed the quantity/quality of youth work expected. The specification for the Abbey Street project was attached by way of appendix.

The Abbey Street project operated a good curriculum and was particularly successful in respect of young people's participation through a user committee, and live music. Abbey Street would be effective in contributing numbers towards the Youth Service Reach target of 25% of 13-19 year olds and further had the capacity to deliver recorded and accredited outcomes. The youth staff at Abbey Street had undertaken training over the past year with 2 staff training with the Youth Service to qualify as youth workers.

The administration and finances of the organisation had had issues and pressures in the past. This had resulted in the grant being released on a monthly basis last year. However the situation had much improved and subject to this grant being given, the project had a 100% confirmed budget for 2007/08. Abbey Street had made sound progress in guaranteeing funding through to 2009/10.

Given the new level of security achieved, it was deemed that the staged monthly payments authorised last year, were no longer necessary.

The grant requested for 2007/8 was £28,135 which represented a 3% inflation increase on the previous year's award. The grant application was

attached by way of Appendix. The Youth Service Budget for 2007/08 had earmarked for this project, a budget of £28,135, equivalent to the amount requested.

Members raised the question of monitoring and the Operations Manager indicated that the projections show that the project was sustainable for the next year and that any future applications would be subject to a risk assessment when submitted.

Decision

- (i) That the grant funding to Abbey Street Project (Headland Future Ltd) of £28,135 be approved.
- (ii) That the staged monthly payments be withdrawn.
- (ii) An annual review be undertaken to assess the risk to the Council.

26. Community Pool 2006/07 – Hartlepool Access Group : Shopmobility *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To advise Members of an application to the Community Pool from Hartlepool Access Group (HAG) for their Shopmobility project and to seek approval for a grant award from remaining funds.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

An application had been received from HAG for a contribution towards the running costs of the Shopmobility project, including the salary costs of an Equipment Worker and an Administrator. The Shopmobility project provided mobility equipment; motorised scooters, wheelchairs, crutches etc to enable people to go about their business in the town centre independently thus improving their quality of life. Details of previous Community Pool grant aid allocated to the Shopmobility Project was highlighted within the report.

Early in the financial year Shopmobility approached the management of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, PPG Metro 500 Ltd and asked for financial support for the project. PPG had provided written confirmation that they were prepared to match the Local Authority's investment in Shopmobility pound for pound basis on the proviso that Hartlepool Access Group supplied a 3-year business plan. PPG Metro also indicated that they

were willing to offer a 3-year funding commitment if a similar commitment was made by the Local Authority.

Due to the lengthy development of a 3-year business plan, PPG had offered payment of £5,479.00 towards the current financial year and had confirmed that their 3-year initial match funding arrangement would commence from 1st April 2007. This arrangement placed Shopmobility in potentially their most financially sustainable position for many years.

HAG therefore requested additional grant aid from the Community Pool of £4,914 to cover this shortfall and sustain service delivery until 1st April 2007. It was reported that if this application was approved, the balance of the 2006/07 Community Pool would be £66,509 and it was requested that this be rolled forward to 2007/08.

Decision

- (i) A grant of £4,914 for Hartlepool Access Group as a contribution towards the running costs of the Shopmobility project for the 2006/07 financial year.
- (i) That the balance of the 2006/2007 Community Pool, £66,509, be accrued into the 2007/2008 financial year, subject to any further demands on the Community Pool.

27. Community Safety Capital Grant Allocations (*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 by £14,321 to £135,679. However, there was slippage of £7,738 in 2005/06 into 2006/07, therefore the capital budget was £143,417 for 2006/07.

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

- **Community Allotment Project** – funding of £12,175 for a contribution towards a steel container for the storage of garden equipment and rural planning permission for the container along with palisade fencing and installation (three sides of plot) at the Waverley Terrace site.
- **Milton Road/Tankerville Street CCTV** – funding of £6,000 to upgrade the current system, purchase and install a new camera at the Milton Road/Tankerville Street junction and pay for the ongoing monitoring and maintenance costs of all cameras within the system for the next two years.

Concern was expressed by Members about reports of anti-social behaviour around Lynnfield School and requested that the security issues around this particular area be examined.

Decision

The following Community Safety capital contributions were approved:

- **Community Allotment Project** – funding for a steel container for the storage of garden equipment and rural planning permission for the container along with palisade fencing and installation (three sides of plot).
- **Milton Road/Tankerville Street CCTV** – funding to upgrade the current system, purchase and install a new camera at the Milton Road/Tankerville Street junction and pay for the ongoing monitoring and maintenance costs of all cameras within the system for the next two years.

28. NRF Community Safety Grants Pool (*Head of Community Safety and Prevention*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to allocate a proportion of the NRF Community Safety Grants Pool to a project.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Community Safety Grants Pool was awarded to allow community groups access to funding to tackle local community safety problems. The objectives and criteria of the grants were detailed within the report.

Members were asked to consider the following applications:

- **Hartlepool Executive District Scouts Council** to fund installation of wall spikes around the Scout Centre Project and Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA) to fund a confidential information shredding service.

The Grants Panel had agreed that the project would benefit the local community and service users by aiming to reduce burglary and the level of anti-social behaviour around the building.

- **Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA)** to fund the purchase of a confidential information shredding service.

The Grants Panel had agreed with OFCA that the project would benefit the local community by providing community voluntary organisations, throughout Hartlepool with a shredding service. The project would promote reassurance and create a feeling of safety for clients in the knowledge that confidential information was disposed of securely.

In relation to the OFCA application, Members requested monitoring arrangements were put in place to enable officers to identify the level of usage of the shredder with a view to obtaining “claw-back” of funding if the shredder was not fully utilised. The Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator indicated that a process for low-cost monitoring could be put in place in order to establish the level of usage and he would explore “claw-back” of funding as a consequence of low level usage.

Decision

- (i) The application for £938.75 towards the cost of the installation of wall spikes around Hartlepool Executive District Scouts Centre be approved.
- (ii) The application for £880.75 to purchase a cross cutter shredder for the Owton Fens Community Association be approved and that low-cost monitoring arrangements for the usage of the shredder be examined.

29. Community Pool 2007/08 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

The report sought approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2007/08.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Community Pool budget for the 2007/08 financial year had been set at £437,109. If the final round of applications for funding from the 2006/07 budget was agreed at this meeting and Members agreed to accrue the balance from the 2006/07 Community Pool budget of £66,329 this would give a total available for distribution of £503,438.

Within the Community Pool budget it was usual practice to allocate funding for Directed Lettings, the allocation for which had been frozen for 2007/08 at £4,000, the same level as 2006/07. Due to the agreement of 7 awards from the Community Pool being approved on a tapering basis in 2005/06, the total of these awards £24,605 had been taken from the total budget available. After both these deductions, a balance of £474,833 remained in the Community Pool budget for distribution. Members were informed that due to the likelihood of some groups requiring further in-year support to safeguard their future, it was suggested that a contingency reserve should be retained.

Details of the applications made along with recommendations for funding were detailed within the report. The report also included details for four organisations requests for funding that had been refused. Details of two applications from Hartlepool People and Owton Manor Neighbourhood Watch and Residents' Association were not in a position to provide some of the information required to process their application. It was suggested that either both these applications be deferred to the next meeting of this Committee or delegated authority could be given to the Director of Adult and Community Services to process the applications upon receipt of the necessary documentation.

At this point in the meeting The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Robbie Payne declared a prejudicial interest in the application for the Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre. As a result of this interest, this application would be referred to Cabinet for a decision.

Members attention was drawn to the fact that PPG Metro had agreed to commit to a 3-year funding package from 2007-10 to match Local Authority funding pound for pound if the Local Authority was prepared to make the same commitment. Members requested that a form of annual review be incorporated into the allocation of funding to Shopmobility. The Director of Adult and Community Services indicated that an indicative agreement could be given to approve the grant subject to an annual review in line with the Council's budget strategy. Members were concerned that the application from Hartlepool Hospice has been rejected. The Assistant Director, Adult and Community Services indicated that there were some extremely difficult decision to be taken in relation to the allocation of grant funding and there was strict criteria to be met. The Assistant Director added that the current investigation being undertaken by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee into the withdrawal of European Funding to the Community and Voluntary Sector may provide some guidance with a view to reviewing the criteria.

Decision

- (i) That the budget allocated for directed lettings (£4,000) be approved.
- (ii) That the Grant aid to those organisations detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved for 2007/08 with the exception of the applications submitted by Hartlepool People and Owton Manor Neighbourhood Watch and Residents' Association. Delegated authority was given to the Director of Adult and Community Services to approve the above 2 applications, once the necessary documentation had been received.
- (iii) That an agreement to a 3-year commitment to Hartlepool Access Group for Shopmobility be approved, subject to an annual review in line with the Council's budget strategy.
- (iv) That the applications from the four applications detailed in the report which did not meet the criteria be rejected.
- (v) That the retention of the balance of the Community Pool, as a contingency to be dispersed later in the financial year be approved.
- (vi) That the application from the Belle Vue Community and Sports Centre be referred to Cabinet for a decision.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 16th March 2007