

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

12th March 2013

VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT PROGRAMME 2013/14 - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder Community Leadership & Partnership including Voluntary Sector
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes.
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Acting Head of Community Services.
Wards Affected	All Wards.
Ward Councillor Consulted	(Grants Panel).
Key Decision Yes	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations of the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2013 - 2014. The total budget available for grants is £245,000 of which £15,000 has been allocated to the Stronger Communities Grants Programme. 42 applications totalling £313,864 have been received.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 3.6 of this report.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The total grant funding budget for 2013/14 is £245,000. In September 2012, Executive Committee and Council approved that £15,000 of this be allocated to the Stronger Communities grants pot.
- 3.2 The total funding being recommended in this document is £229,915.
- 3.3 The £85 remaining will be initially placed in the first round of the Stronger Communities grant programme with any surplus rolling over to subsequent rounds.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

12th March 2013

- 3.4 The recommended funding detailed in this report will support a total of 22 projects by 20 Organisations. Two organisations received grant funding to deliver 2 separate projects each. Although being delivered by the same organisation, these applications were scored on their own merits and are being delivered as stand alone projects.
- 3.5 The Grants Panel has recommended a total of £229,915.
- 3.6 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel recommend the grants to be awarded as set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 In line with the policy the remaining un-allocated £85 has been transferred into the Stronger Communities giving element which encourages localised current project delivery by Local Community groups. This is in addition to the £15,000 allocated to this theme by Executive Committee on 18th September 2012. This has set the 3 rounds of Stronger Communities grant pots at £5,000 each.

Legal Implications

- 3.8 Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. The direct benefit accruing must also be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.
- 3.9 There is a further power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.10 Applications for grant funding were required to address the themes recommended by the Executive Committee on 18th September 2012 and approved by the full Council on 15th October 2012. These are:-
- 1) Independent Communities
 - 2) Community Development
 - 3) Thriving Communities
 - 4) Community Welfare
 - 5) Stronger Communities.
- 3.11 Under the Stronger Communities theme, authority was delegated to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Grants Panel, to

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

12th March 2013

agree the allocation of community grants under the 'Stronger Communities' theme.

- 3.12 The Grants Panel met on 11th and 13th February 2013 to consider and score the applications.
- 3.13 The Grants Panel agreed that in the event of two or more applications achieving the same score, Section 3 (Added value of the Project) of the scoring matrix would be the deciding factor in recommending grant funding.
- 3.14 The Council received 42 grant applications requesting a total of £313,864. (See Appendix 1 for a full list of all applicants).

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.15 By supporting the VCS organisations to successfully identify alternative / match funding the Council can help mitigate total reliance on the grant programme for many VCS organisations allowing them to explore other funding streams. This will allow Redditch Borough Council's grants programme to move forward year on year.
- 3.16 The Grants process facilitates engagement with and support for more marginalised people and promotes equality and diversity issues within the local authority.
- 3.17 Value can be added to the local VCS by ensuring transparency of grant-giving practices thus promoting fairness and diversity.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk to the community has been minimised via grants being paid quarterly to organisations and through the submission of robust monitoring reports.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Application list for grants for 2013 – 14.

Appendix 2: List for grants for 2013 – 14 recommended for approval.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy.

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

12th March 2013

7. KEY

VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Donna Hancox, Voluntary Sector Grants Co-ordinator
E Mail: donna.hancox@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext: 3015.