

## REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Executive Committee**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

#### **REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT PROGRAMME 2014/15 - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Bill Hartnett, Leader of the Council
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services
Wards affected	All
Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations of the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2014 - 2015. The total budget available for grants is £241k and 35 applications totalling £312k have been received.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to consider the recommendation from the Grants Panel that a minimum score of 29 points is set in order for applications to be recommended for funding.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1) grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 4.3 of this report; and
- 2) a minimum score of 50% of the available points is approved for all applications submitted to Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary & Community Grants Programme.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The total grant funding budget for 2014/15 is £241k. The proposed provision of £1k to deliver support and events throughout 2014/15 will leave £240k available to allocate as grants to voluntary organisations.
- 3.2 Applications for grant funding were required to address the themes recommended by the Executive Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and approved under the Councils Urgency procedures in October 2013. These are:
- Independent Communities –£80k & £10k

- Community Development – £40k & £3k
- Thriving Communities- £20k
- Community Welfare – £20k
- Stronger Communities – £34k ( 1<sup>st</sup> round Launch Date – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014)

3.4 The Grants Panel met on 22<sup>nd</sup> January & 6<sup>th</sup> February with the last meeting scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to consider and score the applications.

3.5 The Council received 35 grant applications requesting a total of £312k

**4. KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The Grant Panel has recommended a total of £179k with £34k of the main grants pot still to be scored. (This information will be updated once the panel have scored the remaining applications)

4.2 Funding to the value of £8k has been recouped into the Grant programme funding pot. This funding will be allocated into the Stronger Communities Grant programme.

4.3 In line with the policy the remaining un-allocated funding will be transferred into the Stronger Communities giving element which encourages localised current project delivery by Local Community groups. This has currently set the 3 rounds of Stronger Communities grant pots at approximately £12k each. Please see appendices for details on deadlines for timescales for the Stronger Communities 2014/15 Grant programme.

4.4 Two applications were felt to be below an acceptable standard. In light of this the Grants panel have recommended that due this - these applications are high risk to the Council so they were not recommended for funding in their chosen theme.

4.5 As a consequence of the above issues the Grants panel have requested that a minimum score be set for all applications submitted to the programme in order to be eligible for funding to be approved. The Panel have recommended that this minimum be a total score of 29 on the basis that any application should achieve at least 50% of the available score.

4.6 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel recommend the following grants to be awarded:

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Executive Committee**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

<b>Independent Communities – up to £10k each grant Total Available = £30k</b>	<b>£</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Sight Concern	9,990	Sight Concern Community Hub
Touchstones Support CIC	10,000	Supporting Bereaved Children
IDC	10,000	Connecting Through Craft
	<b>29,990</b>	
<b>Community Welfare Up to £4k each grant Total Available = £20k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Relate	2,600	Relate Counselling
SSAFA	4,000	Operating Expenses
Carers Careline	4,000	Carers Telephone Support
	<b>10,600</b>	
<b>Independent Communities- £80k Grant</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Citizens Advice Bureau	80,000	Redditch CAB Holistic Independent Debt Advice Service
	<b>80,000</b>	
<b>Community Development Grant £40k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Redditch Play Council	40,000	Redditch Play Council
	<b>40,000</b>	
<b>Thriving Communities Up to £4k each grant Total Available = £20k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>

## REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Committee

11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Christ Church Community Project	3,976	Christ Church Community Project - Working with Older People
JestaMinute	2,480	Acapella Rhythm Choir
NewStarts	4,000	NewStarts
The Ditch	4,000	The Ditch Film & Media Project
The Ditch	4,000	The Ditch Youth Project
	<b>18,456</b>	
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>179,000</b>	

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The total budget for grants to voluntary organisations for 2014 – 2015 is £240k. There is an additional £8k as stated at 4.2 which results in a total funding available £248k.
- 5.2 The total funding being recommended in this document is £179k with £35k of the pot still to be scored. (This information will be updated once the panel have scored the remaining applications).
- 5.3 The £34k remaining will be split between the 3 rounds of the Stronger Communities themes.
- 5.4 The recommended funding detailed in this report will support a total of 21 Voluntary & Community Sector Projects/Organisations. With the opportunity to fund a minimum of over 60 Voluntary & Community Sector Projects/Organisations via the Stronger Communities Grant programme.
- 5.5 See appendices 2 for details on deadlines dates for the 2014-15 rounds of the Grant programme under the Stronger Communities theme.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 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.

- 6.2 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.

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1: The Policy for Award of Grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Grants Policy) was approved by Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011.
- 7.2: Additions to the Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Grants Policy) are requested (see 5.2 (j) of the Policy attached – Appendices 1). This addition gives clearer guidance to both the Grants Panel & fundee's on the quality of information submitted to Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary & Community Sector Grants programme.

**8. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

See Appendices 3 for details on how the Grant Programme supports the Council's Strategic Priorities.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- All appropriate documentation pertaining to the Grants process to be made readily available where requested.

**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 By supporting the VCS organisations to successfully identify alternative/match funding we can help mitigate total reliance on Redditch Borough Council's 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.

**11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The Grants process facilitates engagement with and support for more marginalised people and promotes equality and diversity issues within the local authority.
- 11.2 Value can be added to the local VCS by ensuring transparency of grant-giving practices thus promoting fairness and diversity.

**12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

- 12.1 Selection of successful applications was made by following the approved scoring criteria to ensure value for money is achieved.
- 12.2 Training and awareness of the process will be built into the support package.

**13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

None identified.

**14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

**15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 Members of the Grants Panel will be required to attend quarterly panel meetings.
- 15.2. All successful grant applicants are required to attend quarterly monitoring meetings with a requirement that a minimum of one member of the organisation is in attendance at any training/workshop sessions provided under the Training & Support programme.

**16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

None identified.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

**There is a on-going need in the sector for opportunities to enable up-skilling of VCS staff/volunteers in areas of:**

- **Project management/planning**
- **Funding Strategy**
- **Bid writing for grants**

**Redditch Borough Council's Grant Team will be working with BARN (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network) who were successful in bidding for the 3 Year Training & Support programme funding to ensure that the training programme reflects the needs of local VCS.**

**18 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

18.1 Coffee morning

18.2 Speed Networking event

- Funding Fair
- Full programme of training BARN
- Speed Networking Event
- One to One sessions with Grants Officer

**20. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Policy**

**Appendix 2: Deadlines for the Stronger Communities Grant programme**

**Appendix 3: Strategic Purpose's document**

**21. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy

**22. KEY**

**VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector.  
LSP – Local Strategic Partnership  
BARN – Bromsgrove and Redditch Network**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Donna Hancox  
E Mail: donna.hancox@redditchbc.gov.uk  
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext: 3015