

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

20th January 2015

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY
SECTOR GRANT PROGRAMME 2015/16 - FUNDING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership & Partnership inc. Vol. Sector.
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes.
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services.
Wards Affected	All Wards.
Key Decision: Key.	

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 2015/16. The total budget available to the Grants Panel was £222,000 and 20 applications totalling £204,807 were received. The Panel recommends funding of £182,060, giving an underspend of £39,940.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that

- 1) grants are awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 3.11 of this report; and**
- 2) a) that the grants programme be re-run in February 2015 to seek bids for the themes currently underspent; OR**
 - b) that the underspend of £39,940 be identified as a saving and be put in to balances.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The total budget for grants to voluntary organisations for 2015/16 is £241,000, as outlined in 3.7.**

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- 3.2 The total funding being recommended in this document is £182,060 with an underspend of £39,940. The Grants Panel recommended that the underspend be re-advertised to the voluntary sector. An alternative option would be that the underspend is put in to balances as a saving to the Council.
- 3.3 Stronger Communities Grants programme has £15,000 allocated for 2015/16.
- 3.4 All successful applicants are detailed on the Councils website. Monitoring for each applicant is approved by the Grants Officer with any changes or deviations that affect the original application being approved via the Grants Panel where necessary in line with agreed timescales.

Legal Implications

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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

- 3.7 Executive Committee approved a total grant funding budget for 2015/16 of £241,000 on 8th September 2014. This included a provision of £4,000 to deliver support and events throughout 2015/16 and £15,000 allocated to the Stronger Communities Grants Programme.
- 3.8 Applications for grant funding were required to address the themes recommended by the Executive Committee on 8th September 2014 these were:-
- Help me to be financially independent.
 - Help me to live my life independently.
 - Provide good things for me to do, see and visit.
 - Keep my place safe and looking good.
- 3.9 The Council received 20 grant applications requesting a total of £204,807. The Grants Panel met on 17th November 2014 and considered and scored the applications.

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- 3.10 At its meeting on the 17th November 2014, the Grants Panel recommended the approval of applications that totalled £182,060 from the available £222,000. This provided the grants pot with an underspend of £39,940.
- 3.11 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel recommend the following 12 grants to be awarded:-

	Name of the Project	Organisation	Amount proposed	Score
<u>Help me to be Financially Independent - £75K</u>				
1	Redditch CAB Vulnerable People Experiencing Debt & Related Problems with Resolutions Through Working Together	CAB	£75,000	59
<u>Help me to be Financially Independent - £50K</u>				
2	Carers Telephone Support Service	Carers Careline	£3,905	59
4	Achieving Wellbeing	IDC Sewing Café	£10,000	55
5	Where Next Association	Where Next Association	£10,000	59
<u>Help me to Live My Life Independently - £35K</u>				
6	Young Mums "Get Creative" Group	IDC Sewing Cafe	£5,120	57
11a	Food Friends and Family Project	Yum Tum Club	£3,000	53
<u>Help me to Live My Life Independently - £18K</u>				
12	Adult Mentoring Project	Mentor Link	£3,000	53
13	Where Next Hub	Where Next Association	£3,000	55
14	Well being Jigsaw Project	Mental Health Action Group / Yum Tum Club	£3,000	51
<u>Provide Me With Good Things to Do, See and Visit - £9K</u>				
15	Arts , crafts and cookery for families.	What's Your Point?	£2,785	47
18	Inspire ADHD Positive Activities Club	Inspire	£3,000	59
<u>Keep My Place Safe and Looking Good - £15K</u>				
20	The Ditch Youth Project	The Ditch Youth Project	£3,000	43

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- 3.12 In respect of the £39,940 remaining unallocated, the Grants Panel recommended that the grants programme to be re-run in line with the underspent themes in February 2015. Officers propose that to support this work is undertaken in January to upskill local groups on bid writing, budgeting and the importance of researching the wide range of external funding streams available to the VCS.
- 3.13 The Policy for Award of Grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Grants Policy) was approved by Full Council on the 17th October 2011.

Human Resources implications

- 3.14 None identified.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.15 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.
- 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. See background papers.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 All successful grant applicants are required to sign a terms and conditions form prior to the release of any funding. 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. Members of the Grants Panel will be invited to attend events and projects throughout 2015/16 that are supported via the grants programme.
- 4.2 All appropriate documentation pertaining to the Grants process is retained and readily available where requested.

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5. APPENDICES

None.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Local Government Transparency Code 2014.

7. KEY

VCS - Voluntary and Community Sector.

LSP - Local Strategic Partnership

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