



# Executive Committee

No Ward Relevance

9th December 2009

## VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT APPLICATIONS 2009/10

(Report of the Head of Strategy & Partnerships)

### 1. Summary of Proposals

The committee is asked to consider approving the recommendations of the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations applied for through the Community Forum utilising the funding available following the closure of Redditch Inter-Cultural Association (RICA, formerly known as MECA) for 2009/2010.

The Council is asked to recommend the budget for grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2010/2011 and enhance the role of the Grant Support Officer to provide a strategic focus and assist in completing the Shopping element of the Council's Policy

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that:

- 1) **the budget for grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2010/11 is set at £244,800;**
- 2) **the Grants Support Officer post role be enhanced to a full time post to provide support and strategic focus on the voluntary sector**

and **RESOLVE** that

- 1) **grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in paragraphs 5.4 of this report, and**
- 2) **delegated authority be given to the Head of Strategy & Partnerships to withdraw grant funding to Rainbow Redditch should the full funding not be obtained to complete the project.**
- 3) **the 'core funded' organisations are requested to complete a grant application for 2010/11 at a level not exceeding their current grant funding level.**

### 3. **Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Sustainability Implications**

#### Financial

- 3.1 The budget for grants to voluntary organisations for 2009/10 is £244,800. Following the closure of RICA £15,000 remains in this budget.
- 3.2 Council agreed a budget of £20,000 for a Grant Support Officer on the 27 July 2009.
- 3.3 A grant of £20,000 has been secured from Worcestershire County Council

#### Legal

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

#### Policy

- 3.6 The grants process was undertaken inline with the Council's current grants policy.

#### Risk

- 3.7 There is a risk that the Council will be criticised for failing to support certain projects or organisations.

#### Sustainability / Environmental

- 3.8 None specifically relating to this report

#### **Report**

### 4. **Background**

- 4.1 The total grant funding available to voluntary organisations for 2009/10 is £244,800.

- 4.2 On the 28th January 2008, Council resolved support to four core-funded organisations and donations for two infrastructure organisations amounting to £187,500 for 2009/10.
- 4.3 The donation to RICA of £15,000 was not paid for 2009/10 due to the organisation ceasing to operate.
- 4.4 The Grants Panel at its meeting of the 8 June 2009 agreed that the £15,000 unallocated budget be available for grant applications provided through the Community Forum for diversity celebration projects.
- 4.5 The Grants Assessment Panel met on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to assess the applications.
- 4.6 Council agreed a budget of £20,000 on the 27 July 2009 for a Grants Support Officer to provide administrative support to the grants process and grants panel.

### 5. **Key Issues**

- 5.1 A total of 9 applications were received requesting a total of £16,742. This was £1,672 more than the funds available for allocation.
- 5.2 Applications were screened to ensure that:
- a) The applicant organisation had provided:
    - i) Clear evidence of operating within the Voluntary and Community Sector;
    - ii) Information that matched Companies House/Charity Commission records (where applicable);
    - iii) Confirmation of a bank/building society account in organisation's name;
    - v) Confirmation that at least two unrelated signatures are required for withdrawal of money.
  - b) The proposed project:
    - i) Was a new project not previously funded by RBC;
    - ii) Was not for the purpose of political or religious activity;
    - iii) Was not to cover core costs;
    - iv) Could not be funded out of organisational reserves or other resources;
    - v) Would be delivered during 2009/10 (Project Grants only);
    - vi) Would operate in Redditch Borough on behalf of Borough residents;
    - vii) Had a strong link to one of the six application themes;
    - viii) Had clear objectives.

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- 5.3 The application for I – Camp was removed at this stage as the Grants Panel considered that this application did not meet the above criteria as its primary role was for religious activity.
- 5.4 The grants panel considered each of the remaining eight applications and recommend that grants are awarded to the following organisations:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Details of Project</b>
Redditch Chinese Association	£2,000	To support the Chinese New Year Celebration in February 2010
Sandycroft Wellbeing Centre	£1,742	To support the development of a nutrition awareness program which is tailored towards the diets of the BME community
Polish Community	£2,000	To teach Polish children to learn Polish dancing , enabling them to perform and bring the generations and cultures together
West Indian Society	£2,000	Provision of luncheon club, social activities, exercise and health living for people over the age of 50, primarily of African and Caribbean descent.
<i>Caribbean Roots</i>	<i>£2,000</i>	<i>To enhance the Celebration of Black History Month celebrations</i>
Rainbow Redditch	£1,000	To hold a Mardi Gras event for LGBT history month in February 2010
Romani Roots	£2,000	The grant would support the launch of the POD. The POD is an interactive computer pod which will have details of local history, local communities/groups/organisations, and individuals of note within the community in the past and present.
British Asian Women's Group	£2,000	To provide local women with an arena to experience aspects of the British way of life and promote values such as good health and cultural education.

- 5.5 The Grants Panel recommended that the application from Rainbow Redditch be approved but held until confirmation from Rainbow Redditch on their grant application to Worcestershire County Council is approved and confirmation that the event would proceed.

- 5.6 The application for Caribbean Roots Connection was agreed at the Executive Committee on the 7 October 2009.
- 5.7 If the recommendations contained in paragraphs 5.4 above are supported, this will represent a total allocation of £14,742, with an unallocated budget of £258.

### **2010/2011 Grants**

- 5.8 The Council is not in a position to undertake the Shopping element of the Councils Funding of the Voluntary Sector policy, the Grants Panel has recommended that the 'Core Funded' organisations be advised to submit a grant application in accordance with the Giving element of the policy at a level not above their current funding.
- 5.9 These applications will then be subject to Executive Committee approval.

### **6. Other Implications**

- Asset Management - None Identified
- Community Safety - Communities that are safe and feel safe' is one of the themes in determining grant allocations for 2009/10.
- Human Resources - There are no Human Resources issues if Members agree to the proposed grant allocations.
- Social Exclusion - None Identified

### **7. Lessons Learnt**

None

### **8. Background Papers**

Grant application forms received.

### **9. Consultation**

This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant Borough Council Officers

### **10. Author of Report**

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