

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

15th March 2011

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR  
GRANT PROGRAMME 2011/12 - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Carole Gandy, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership & Partnerships
Relevant Head of Service	Angie Heighway, Head of Community Services
Key Decision	

**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 2011 - 2012. The total budget available for grants is £239,000 and 67 applications totalling £519,074.26 have been received.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 4.4 of this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The total grant funding available to voluntary organisations for 2011/12 is £239,000.

3.2 Applications for grant funding were required to address the themes recommended by the Executive Committee on 2nd December 2010 and approved by Full Council on 13th December 2010. These are:

- a) Enterprising Communities.
- b) Education & Learning.
- c) Health and Well Being.
- d) Safe/Clean & Green.
- e) Stronger Communities.

3.3 Under the Stronger Communities theme authority was delegated to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Grants Panel, to agree the allocation of community grants under the 'Stronger Communities' theme by Full Council on 13th December 2010.

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- 3.4 The Grants Panel met on 2nd, 8th, 10th, 16th and 23rd February 2011 to consider and score the applications.
- 3.5 The Council received 67 grant applications requesting a total of £519,074.26 as listed in appendices 1.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Grant Panel has recommended a total of £230,154 to include the first round of the Stronger Communities Grant. £8,846 is remaining for the 2nd and 3rd rounds of the Stronger Communities Grants.
- 4.2 In line with the policy the remaining un-allocated £2,876 has been transferred into the Stronger Communities giving element which encourages localised current project delivery by Local Community groups. This has set the Stronger Communities 2nd and 3rd grant rounds pots at £4423.00 each. Please see appendices 2 and 3 for details on deadlines for next rounds and a funding table.
- 4.3 Under the Health & Well Being theme a late application was submitted by Where Next Association. The organisation submitted their application with a covering letter for the Grants panel to consider explaining the circumstances of their late application. Following advice from the Council's Legal Services department the decision was made by the Grants Panel to accept and score the application due to the circumstances.
- 4.4 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel recommend the following grants to be awarded:

<b>Enterprising Communities - 90k Grant</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding recommended</b>	<b>Project</b>
CAB	90,000.00	Redditch Advice & Advocacy
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,000.00</b>	
<b>Enterprising Communities - 10k Grant - Pot = 40k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding recommended</b>	<b>Project</b>
Batchley Support Group	10,000.00	Batchley Community Café
Age Concern	10,000.00	Information & Advice
Sandycroft	10,000.00	Sandycroft'

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Where Next	10,000.00	Where Next Support Work & Training
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Learning Grant 50k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding recommended</b>	<b>Project</b>
Redditch Play Council	50,000.00	Crèche & Holiday Play care
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Learning Grant 2k - Pot = 10k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding recommended</b>	<b>Project</b>
Batchley Support Group	2,000.00	Redditch Roots
British Asian Women's Group	2,000.00	Cultural Learning project
YMCA	1,980.00	Lights Camera Action
YMCA	1,956.00	Y-Dads
Chinese Association	2,000.00	Chinese New Year 2012
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,936.00</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Well Being Grant 4k - Pot = 20k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding recommended</b>	<b>Project</b>
Carers Care Line	4,000.00	Health Awareness project
Friday Fun Club	2,600.00	Disabled youth group
Relate	2,500.00	Open Counselling Service - Redditch
Age Concern	3,360.00	History project
YMCA	3,273.00	Active8
SSAFA	2,000.00	Support Service for Veterans & Families
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,733.00</b>	
<b>Safe Clean &amp; Green Grant 5k - Pot = 20k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding recommended</b>	<b>Project</b>
Batchley Support Group	5,000.00	Batchley Odd Jobs
The Ditch	5,000.00	Ditch IT
YMCA	4,974.00	Positive Futures
YMCA	4,481.00	Intensive Intervention Project
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,455.00</b>	

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<b>Total grant funding recommended from main grant themes</b>	<b>227,124.00</b>	
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4.5 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel approved the following grants in line with the delegated authority agreed by Full Council on 13th December 2010.

4.6 Stronger Communities funding table:

<b>Stronger Communities grant £500.00 - Pot = 3k</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding allocated</b>	<b>Project</b>
Harry Bishops Group	480.00	Charity Concert - Acorns
Smallwood residents Ass	500.00	Outing for Elderly
Headless Cross Methodist Outreach	500.00	Woodwork project
Matchborough West Community Group	500.00	Community group
St Johns - Spice Project	100.00	Community handy service
RM Samba - The Band	500.00	Samba Band
The Salvation Army	450.00	Projection equipment
<b>Total funding allocated</b>	<b>3,030.00</b>	

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total budget for grants to voluntary organisations for 2011 – 2012 is £239,000.

- a) The total funding being recommended in this document is £230,154.
- b) The £8,846 remaining will be split between the two remaining rounds of the Stronger Communities themes.
- c) This funding will support a total of 28 Voluntary & Community Sector Projects/Organisations.
- d) See appendices 2 and 3 for details on deadlines, dates and funding available under the next 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

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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**

The Policy for Award of Grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Grants Policy) was approved by Full Council on the 13th December 2010.

**8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 Enterprising Communities – Recognising the value of the Third Sector as an integral part of shaping and delivering better services for the citizens of Redditch. The Council can be flexible in its approach to partnership and funding so as to recognise the Third Sector's role in the sustainability of delivery of public services.
- 8.2 Safe – Specific projects will be delivered to support and raise awareness of issues that affect Redditch citizens.
- 8.3 Clean & Green - Specific projects will be delivered to support and raise awareness of issues that affect Redditch citizens.

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

- 9.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:
- a) Acceptance of late application and challenge of the fairness and transparency of the grants process.
- 9.2 These risks are being managed as follows:
- a) A process for the management of late applications to be implemented.
  - b) All appropriate documentation pertaining to the Grants process to be made readily available where requested.

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**10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

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 The 'Shopping' element of the Grants process will be delivered via the Council's procurement process. Training and awareness of the process will be built into the support package. We will also look at the options for funding a shopping pilot project into the 2012/13 Grants programme.

**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.

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

None identified.

**17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

**18. LESSONS LEARNT**

18.1 There is a need in the sector for up-skilling in areas of:

- Project management.
- Financial planning.
- Bid writing for grants.

Redditch Borough Council's Grant Team will be hosting workshops during 2011/12 to address these areas.

18.2 We will also be adding to the Grant application process templates for applicants to use to detail their project plans and financial plans.

**19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

19.1 A workshop was hosted on 29th November to engage with VCS organisations to help up-skill and support bid writing and the grant making process. This workshop had 40 attendees from over 20 different VCS organisations.

19.2 On 6th January a Grant information morning was held at the Town Hall. Officers were available for one to one discussions about the grant process and to answer any queries on grant applications. This event had over 50 attendees from a wide range of local VCS groups.

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**20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	
Chief Executive	
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	
Executive Director – Leisure, Environment and Community Services	
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	
Head of Service	
Head of Resources	
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	
Corporate Procurement Team	

**21. WARDS AFFECTED**

All Wards.

**22. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1:** Full list of recommended grant recipients (see attached).

**Appendix 2:** Deadlines for second and third rounds of the Stronger Communities Grant programme:



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<b>Process for Community Grant programme</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Launch - 2nd Round – Theme	Monday 14th March
2nd Application deadline for projects to commence from 1st July (Funds Released)	4pm Friday 8th April 2011
Launch – 3rd Round - Theme	Monday 20th June
3rd Application deadline for projects to commence from 3rd October (Funds Released)	4pm Friday 15th July
Assessment of applications	Within 14 working days of deadline
Successful and unsuccessful applicants informed	Within 21 working days of deadline

**Appendix 3: Stronger Communities Grant Fund**

<b>Stronger Communities Grant Pot</b>	<b>£11,876.00</b>
1st round - allocated	£3,030.00
2nd round	£4,423.00
3rd round	£4,423.00

**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**24. KEY**

**VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector.  
LSP – Local Strategic Partnership.**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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