

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**21st February 2012**

**VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT PROGRAMME 2012/13 -  
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Carole Gandy, Portfolio Holder Community Leadership & Partnership
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Angie Heighway, Head of Community Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	(Grants Panel)
Key Decision	
Appendix 1 to this report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.	

**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 2012 - 2013. The total budget available for grants is £240,000 and 37 applications totalling £336,300 have been received.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 1) **grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in Section 3.6 of this report; and**
- 2) **the additions to the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy at paragraphs 5.4 and 6.2 be approved (Appendix 3) - these additions give clearer guidance to fundees the type of projects / services suitable to be submitted to Redditch Borough Council's Voluntary & Community Sector Grants programme.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The total grant funding budget for 2012/13 is £241,000. The agreed provision of £1,000 to deliver support and events throughout 2012/13 will leave £240,000 available to allocate as grants to voluntary organisations.

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- 3.2 The total funding being recommended in this document is £208,590, with the 3 Year Training & Support Programme budget set at £15,000.
- 3.3 The £16,410 remaining will be split between the 3 rounds of the Stronger Communities themes. See appendices 2 & 3 for details on deadlines dates and funding available under the next rounds of the Grant programme under the Stronger Communities theme.
- 3.4 The recommended funding detailed in this report will support a total of 20 projects by 18 organisations.
- 3.5 The Grant Panel has recommended a total of £208,590.
- 3.6 Following the scoring of the applications the Grants Panel recommend the following grants to be awarded:

<b>Enterprising Communities - £85,000 Grant</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
CAB	85,000.00	Financial Advice
Total	85,000.00	
<b>Enterprising Communities - £10,000 Grant - Pot = £20,000</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Where Next	10,000.00	Continue work of organisation
Two Pennies Also known as "Worcester Cash"	10,000.00	1 to1 Financial Advice
Total	20,000.00	
<b>Education &amp; Learning Grant £10,000 – JSA</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Barnardos Wheels	10,000.00	Support Service for Young People
Total	10,000.00	
<b>Education &amp; Learning Grant £40,000</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
The Play Council	40,000.00	Holiday & Crèche Scheme
Total	40,000.00	

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<b>Education &amp; Learning Grant £3,000 - Pot = £15,000</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Abbeyside Friends	3,000.00	Community Jubilee Celebration
IDC Sewing Café	3,000.00	Sewing Café programme
Chinese Association	3,000.00	Family Fun Zone at Morton Stanley festival
JestaMinute	2,890.00	Dads & Lads Project
Butterflies Training & Mentoring Community Interest	3,000.00	Creche & After School Scheme
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,890.00</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Well Being Grant £4,000 - Pot = £20,000</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
Carers Careline	4,000.00	Counselling sessions for carers
Touchstones Support	4,000.00	One to One Bereavement support programme for young people
Relate Worcestershire	4,000.00	Counselling sessions
Redditch Wheels Project	4,000.00	Funding for Youth Worker
JestaMinute	3,700.00	Men's Health project
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,700.00</b>	
<b>Safe Clean &amp; Green Grant £4,000 - Pot = £20,000</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>	<b>Project</b>
The Ditch	4,000.00	Youth Group
Boomerang	4,000.00	Premises Move
ATARA (Abbeydale Tenants & Residents Ass'n.)	3,000.00	Community Tool Bank
St Basil's	4,000.00	STaMP Project
IDC Sewing Café	4,000.00	Mobile Sewing Café
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	
<b>Total grant funding recommendations</b>	<b>£208,590.00</b>	

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- 3.7 In line with the policy the remaining un-allocated £1410.00 has been transferred into the Stronger Communities giving element which encourages localised current project delivery by Local Community groups. This has set the 3 rounds of Stronger Communities grant pots at £5470.00 each. Please see Appendices 2 & 3 for details on deadlines for timescales & funding available for the Stronger Communities 2012/13 Grant programme.

**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 4th October 2011 and approved by the full Council on 17th October 2011 These are:
- 1) Enterprising Communities
  - 2) Education & Learning
  - 3) Health and Well Being
  - 4) Safe/Clean & Green
  - 5) 3 Year Training & Support programme – Bids invited February 2012
  - 6) Stronger Communities – 1st round Launch Date – 30th January 2012.
- 3.11 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
- 3.12 The Grants Panel met on 17th, 18th and 26th January 2012 to consider and score the applications.

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- 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. See Appendix 5 for matrix scoring sheet.
- 3.14 The Council received 37 grant applications requesting a total of £336.300. See Appendix 1 for a full list of all applicants (confidential).

**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**

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.

**5. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1:** Full list of all Grant applications submitted (confidential).

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

<b>Process for Stronger Community Grant programme</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Launch -1st Round	Monday 30th January 2012
1st Application deadline for projects to commence from April 1st (Funds Released)	4pm, Friday 24th February 2012

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Launch - 2nd Round – Theme	Monday 30th April 2012
2nd Application deadline for projects to commence from July 1st (Funds Released)	4pm Friday 25th May 2012
Launch - 3rd Round - Theme	Monday 30th July 2012
3rd Application deadline for projects to commence from 3rd October (Funds Released)	4pm Friday 24th August 2012
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</b>	<b>£16,410</b>
1st round	£5,470.00
2nd round	£5,470.00
3rd round	£5,470.00

**Appendix 4: Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy**

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**Appendix 5: Grants scoring matrix**

<b>Section 1: Background to the project</b>		<b>A(0)</b>	<b>B(1)</b>	<b>C(3)</b>	<b>D(5)</b>
<b>The project .....</b>					
<b>1</b>	has clearly set out its aims and aspirations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2</b>	supports local priorities (in addition to identified theme).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	is low risk to the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Section Score ( /15)</b>			
<b>Section 2: Project Planning</b>		<b>A(0)</b>	<b>B(2)</b>	<b>C(4)</b>	<b>D(6)</b>
<b>The project .....</b>					
<b>4</b>	has a clear and robust financial outline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5</b>	addresses the needs of people suffering social or economic disadvantage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>6</b>	gives clear details on how the project will be structured, co-ordinated and promoted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Section Score ( /16)</b>			
<b>Section 3: Added Value of the Project</b>		<b>A(0)</b>	<b>B(3)</b>	<b>C(5)</b>	<b>D(7)</b>
<b>The project .....</b>					
<b>7</b>	has provided clear evidence of a local need that is not met by current or planned provision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8</b>	provides specific, measurable, and realistic targets that clearly address the chosen theme.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9</b>	provides a robust and realistic plan for sustaining the project after the period of grant aid.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10</b>	has clearly identified methods and structures to increase participation and/or increase the number of beneficiaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Section Score ( /28)</b>			

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<b>Matrix Scoring</b>	<b>/59</b>
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**23. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

Individual applications for grant (confidential).

**24. KEY**

**VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector.**

**LSP – Local Strategic Partnership**

**JSA – Job Seeker Allowance.**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Donna Hancox, Voluntary Sector Grants Co-ordinator

E Mail: [donna.hancox@redditchbc.gov.uk](mailto:donna.hancox@redditchbc.gov.uk)

Tel: (01527) 64252 ext: 3015.