

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL DECISION
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 10

meeting date: 27 MARCH 2012
title: VOLUNTARY GRANT APPLICATIONS 2012/13
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: TRUDY HOLDERNESS

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the allocation of voluntary sector grants as proposed by a sub-group of this committee, in accordance with the approved voluntary sector grant scheme.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has a number of grant schemes in operation including specific ones such as recreation grants, culture grants and sports grants to more general ones administered mainly by Policy and Finance Committee.

- 2.2 In accordance with the approved voluntary sector grant scheme a sub-group of this Committee considers the applications received and recommends the allocation of funds to voluntary organisations to Committee.

- 2.3 In September 2011 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued statutory guidance on how Authorities fulfil their best value duty. There is particular reference under this guidance to the community and voluntary sector, particularly:

- ❖ To be sensitive to the benefits and needs of voluntary and community sector organisations of all sizes and small businesses.
- ❖ Seek to avoid passing on disproportionate reductions, by not passing on larger reductions to the voluntary and community sector and small businesses as a whole, than they take on themselves and in particular:
 - (i) An authority intending to reduce or end funding or other support to a voluntary and community organisation or small business should give at least three months' notice of the actual reduction to both the organisation involved and the public/service users, where the organisation might expect the funding to be continued
 - (ii) An authority should actively engage the organisation and service users as early as possible before making a decision on the future of the service, assets used to provide this service and the wider impact on the local community.
 - (iii) Authorities should make provision for the organisation, service users, and wider community to put forward options on how to reshape the service or project and the authority should assist this by making available all appropriate information, in line with the government's transparency agenda.

3 APPLICATION PROCESS

- 3.1 In November 2011, current recipients and any other voluntary group who had indicated an interest in a voluntary grant were sent an application form, to be returned by 31 December 2011.
- 3.2 Applicants must clearly demonstrate that the purpose of the grant sought is to provide services or facilities that will meet the needs of communities in the Ribble Valley or directly benefit the residents of the Ribble Valley. The scheme will not normally fund the following:
- ❖ Capital projects on which work has already started or in aid of expenditure already committed or paid.
 - ❖ Commercial organisations / businesses
 - ❖ Any activity designed to promote political party politics or influence government policies
 - ❖ Applications from the County Council or other government agencies
 - ❖ Applications from religious organisations unless there is a clear broad community benefit.
 - ❖ Schemes that can be funded by the Councils' other grant aid schemes.
- 3.3 Applicants can only be accepted from parish / town councils and properly constituted organisations operating on a non-profit making basis. A valid constitution or memorandum of articles or association, which clearly indicates the voluntary or charitable status of the organisation, should accompany all applications.
- 3.4 Applications for grants over £10,000 are required to supply a 3-year financial plan and for grants over £1,000 a copy of the organisations' latest audited accounts. Capital projects are limited to 50% of the approved costs to a maximum of £5000.
- 3.5 On 12 March 2012 Councillors M Ranson, D Taylor, R Sherras and A Knox met to consider the applications received, mindful of the best value statutory guidance. Councillor D Taylor replaced Councillor S Hore on the sub-group and declared an interest in the Home-Start application.

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 The Grant Pot available for 2012/13 is £96,670, which is a 2.5% increase on the previous year's budget.
- 4.2 The Council received 15 applications totalling over £134,100. The sub group considered each application in detail. 11 of the applications were from previous applicants, receiving funding in the past year, 1 application was received from an organisation that had been previously refused funding, and there were 3 new applicants.
- 4.3 After careful consideration of all grant applications received, the sub group recommends the allocation of grants as shown at annex 1. It recommends that
- ❖ Of the 11 previous applicants, 2 have had their funding removed, 1 reduced to its 2009/10 level and the remaining 8 have their funding maintained at 2011/12 levels or slightly increased.

- ❖ The application from the organisation previously refused, be again refused.
- ❖ Of the 3 new applicants, no funding to be given to 2 of the applicants, with the other being deferred.

4.4 A balance of £8,720 has been left in the grant pot, which can be utilised should any grant be awarded to the deferred application, Little Green Bus, in the future.

4 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Approve the allocation of grants as proposed by the voluntary grant sub-group as set out in Annex 1.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

PF24-12/TH/AC
12 MARCH 2012

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

ALLOCATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS 2012/13

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		Purpose of grant	Notes
	Grant Approved £	Grant Approved £	Grant Requested £	Grant Recommended £		
Goosnargh & Longridge Agricultural Society	250	250	250	250	To support the annual agricultural show	
Hodder Valley Agricultural & Horticultural Society	250	250	250	250	To support the annual agricultural show	
Chipping Agricultural Society	250	250	250	250	To support the annual agricultural show	
Victim Support Lancashire Area Office	1,500	1,500	3,000	0	Provide ongoing training, support and supervision to all volunteers to ensure they are suitably skilled to support victims & witnesses of crime in the Ribble Valley	
Ribble Valley Shop-mobility	5,500	5,000	7,000	5,000	£5,500 to support the running costs of providing mobility scooters and mobility aids to Ribble Valley residents and visitors. £1,500 to purchase a trailer to transport the trampers about the Ribble Valley.	
East Lancashire Women's Refuge Association	6,400	7,000	10,000	2,500	A contribution to the provision of services for children living at the refuge	Major changes have taken place with ELWRA becoming a subsidiary of Calico homes from April 2011, funding reduced to 2009/10 level.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		Purpose of grant	Notes
	Grant Approved £	Grant Approved £	Grant Requested £	Grant Recommended £		
Carers Link Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	To finance the costs of sustaining, managing and developing the support and services provided for adult and young carers residing in the Ribble Valley	
Home Start Ribble Valley	3,160	3,160	3,200	3,200	To support parents with at least one child under the age of 5, who are facing difficulties, enabling them to cope with the pressures they are facing and reduce the potential for family crisis and breakdown.	Cllr D Taylor declared an interest in this application
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS	0	0	9,916	0	To part fund a project aimed at encouraging volunteering and participation within the community	
Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau	57,000	60,000	63,234	60,000	To cover core running costs of the organisation such as staff salaries, rent, general running costs, information subscriptions and volunteer expenses.	3 Year financial plan attached
Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition	750	750	1,000	0	To support the cost of staging the competition in 2012	
Ribble Valley - Crossroads Care	13,500	13,500	20,000	13,500	To assist the organisation with the high travel cost incurred because of the large rural area covered	Between £15k to £20k requested. 3 Year financial plans attached.

	2010/11 Grant Approved £	2011/12 Grant Approved £	2012/13		Purpose of grant	Notes
			Grant Requested £	Grant Recommended £		
Relate Lancashire	N/a	0	2,000	0	To provide a low or no cost Counselling service to all clients regardless of their ability to pay	
Little Green Bus	N/a	0	5,000	Deferred	To provide a car scheme for transporting mainly elderly residents to medical appointments	Accounts supplied from previous operating name. Little green bus became operational April 2011. Update on how Little green bus is operating before allocating any funding
Little Green Bus	N/a	0	5,000	Deferred	Capital contribution towards newer minibus	
New Beginnings	N/a	0	1,000	0	Contribution towards cost of rent and public liability Insurance	No accounts received initial funding received from small sparks Feb 2011, copies of few bank statements and invoices provided. To be referred to Calderstones
Total Grants	91,560	94,660	134,100	87,950		
Funds available (Original Estimate)	-91,560	-94,310	-96,670	-96,670		
Deficit / (Surplus)	0	350	37,430	-8,720		