

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 13

meeting date: 12 JUNE 2012
title: VOLUNTARY GRANT DEFERRED APPLICATION 2012/13
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: TRUDY HOLDERNESS

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the allocation of voluntary sector grants funding deferred by this committee in March 2012

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- In accordance with the corporate strategy objective "to help make peoples lives safer and healthier", this report will provide a means for combating rural isolation.
- In accordance with the sustainable community strategy a key priority is "to ensure there is access to appropriate public transport", this report will provide the means for improving accessibility to local services

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 On 27 March 2012 this committee considered the voluntary grant applications received for 2012/13 and the recommendations made by the sub-group of this committee on the allocation of funds. At this time the decision on the Little Green bus funding was deferred, pending further information on its current financial situation.

2.2 The Little Green Bus became a registered charity in December 2010 it provides door to door transport for residents of the Ribble Valley who are unable to use public transport.

2.3 It previously operated as Ribble Valley Community Transport Council (RVCT) becoming operational as Little Green Bus in April 2011, after receiving a donation from RVCT.

2.4 In December the Little Green Bus applied under the voluntary organisation grant scheme for a total contribution of £10,000. Part of the request was for £5,000 to extend a volunteer car scheme for transporting mainly elderly residents to vital medical appointments. This request would be part funded by the passengers themselves who pay 40p per mile from their home to their destination and back. The remaining £5,000 was made for funding towards a replacement minibus.

2.3 A balance of £8,720 was left in the grant pot after allocations to other voluntary organisations, to be utilised should any grant be awarded to this deferred application, in the future. No decision was made on the amount of grant to be awarded

3 ISSUES

3.1 On 10 May the manager of the Little Green Bus met with the Council's Chief Executive and Director of Resources to update them with the financial results following the first full year of operation following the changes to community transport on 1 April 2011,

3.2 A copy of their profit and loss account and balance sheet at 31 March 2012 was supplied, which showed they made a small loss of £5k for the financial year April 2011 to March 2012 and have retained cash balances of £25k at 31 March 2012.

3.3 Subsequently a letter was received from the manager (appendix 1) which indicated that although they are operating under very difficult financial circumstances they are managing to keep their “head above water” and they would still like to be considered for the voluntary organisation grant for the car scheme and any funds available for a contribution towards the cost of a newer minibus.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – a balance of £8,720 is available towards any grant that committee may wish to award. Any additional grant approvals would need to be found from elsewhere within existing budgets.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – no implications identified
- Political – no implications identified
- Reputation – the matter covered links to the Council’s ambitions and priorities of helping to make people’s lives safer and healthier.
- Equality & Diversity – Equal access to services by all.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Consider whether to support the Little Green Bus Voluntary Grant Application, in light of the additional information that has now been provided.

5.2 Agree the level of grant support to be given to the Little Green Bus, should committee approve recommendation 5.1

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF29-12/TH/AC
30 MAY 2012

Background papers: Voluntary organisation grant applications

For further information please ask for Trudy Holderness, extension 4436

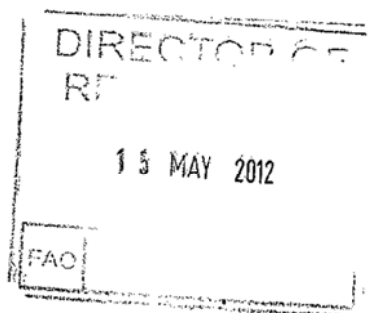


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Tel/Fax: 01200 444484

11 May 2012

Trudy Holderness
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancs



Dear Trudy

LITTLE GREEN BUS – CHARITY NO. 1140118

Further to your recent email informing me that our bid for Community Grant funding had been deferred pending further information, I should like to advise you that I met with Marshall Scott and Jane Pearson on Thursday 10 May, bringing evidence of our financial situation over the last 12 months

The evidence brought clearly showed that Little Green Bus has kept its head above water and has managed to continue to operate under very difficult financial circumstances and Marshall congratulated us on the hard work that we had put into achieving this situation

I should like to confirm that we should still like to be considered for the community grant and would also like to confirm that the £5,000 requested for the Volunteer Car Scheme will be match funded by the passengers themselves who will pay 40p per mile from their home to their destination and back. This will allow us to extend the scheme in order that more people can benefit from it.

We would also welcome any financial support that the community grant or indeed other council monies could provide towards our endeavours to find capital funding for new(er) buses.

We will continue to search for other grants and are confident that we can maintain the services that the residents of the Ribble Valley very much rely on.

We appreciate the support that the Borough Council and its staff and councillors provide to Little Green Bus and hope to continue to serve the borough well for years to come.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Atkinson'.

Donna Atkinson (Mrs)
Manager