

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL DECISION
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 12

meeting date: 25 MARCH 2014
title: VOLUNTARY GRANT APPLICATIONS 2014/15
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: TRUDY HOLDERNESS

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the allocation of voluntary organisation grants as proposed by a working group of this committee, in accordance with the approved scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has a number of grant schemes in operation such as recreation grants, culture grants and sports grants, administered by Community Committee. The voluntary organisations grant scheme is administered by Policy and Finance Committee. A working group comprising members consider the applications received and make recommendations to this Committee regarding the allocation of funds to voluntary organisations on an annual basis.

2.2 The working group consists of 3 conservative members and 1 liberal democrat member of this committee.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 In November 2013, 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 2013. This deadline was extended to the end of February 2014; and an invitation to apply was placed on the Council's website to advertise the availability of these grants.

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 our residents. The scheme will not normally fund the following:

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 A meeting was arranged for 17 March 2014 for members of the working group to consider the applications received. Councillors S Hirst, A Knox and T Hill attended the meeting with Councillor J Hill sending his apologies.

4. ALLOCATION OF 2014/15 GRANTS

4.1 The Voluntary Sector Grant Pot available for 2014/15 is £101,810, which is a 2.75% increase on the previous year's original budget provision. The 2013/14 grant pot was increased by £9,900 in respect of Efficiency Support to Services in Sparse Areas (ESSSA). This was a new separate grant announced late in the local government finance settlement from central government. As a result of this it was decided to use this funding to give extra support to voluntary organisations. For 2014/15 however this funding has been rolled into our overall finance settlement and is therefore not available as a separate grant. For organisations funded last year via the ESSSA grant it was highlighted that the funding may be for one year only

4.2 The Council received 16 applications requesting support of £177,563. Annex 1 shows a summary of the applications received from each of the voluntary organisations. A detailed booklet containing information on all the grant requests was circulated to the working group members.

4.3 Councillor Knox declared an interest in the Shop Mobility application and Councillor T Hill in the Whalley Foundation application.

4.4 The applications as submitted exceeded the funding available by £75,753. After careful consideration of all grant applications received, the working group recommends the grant allocations as shown in Annex 2.

4.5 If Committee approve these recommendations, the Voluntary Grants allocations compare with the budget as follows:

	£
Voluntary Grants budget available	101,810
Recommended allocations	96,750
Amount remaining	5,060

4.6 The balance remaining offers the Council flexibility to support any further grant requests which may be received during the course of 2014/15. This was felt to be particularly important given two grant requests were received and approved later in the current financial year.

4.7 The working group considered that the application received from Clitheroe Chamber of Trade and Commerce did not fall within the definition of a voluntary organisation grant, however they wished for the request to be supported. The Director of Resources suggested that if Committee were to approve this request, the grant could be funded from the small under allocation on 2013/14 grant monies.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Approve the allocation of grants as proposed by the voluntary grant sub-group as set out in the Annex 2, totalling £96,750.
- 5.2 Agree to support the Clitheroe Chamber of Trade and Commerce application for £1,000 to be funded from unallocated grant monies in 2013/14.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
PF24-14/TH/AC
14 MARCH 2014

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Background papers:

Voluntary Organisation application forms and supporting documentation – 2014/15

COMPARISON OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS REQUESTED TO PAST YEARS APPROVALS				
Organisation	Grant Requested 2014/15	Past Grants Approved		
		2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Shopmobility and Information Centre	£8,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Safenet Domestic Abuse Service (Formally East Lancashire Women's Refuge Association)	£10,000	£0	£2,500	£7,000
Carers Link - Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	£3,000	£2,000	£3,000	£3,000
Home-Start Pendle & Ribble Valley	£3,500	£3,000	£3,200	£3,160
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS	£9,958	£0	£0	£0
Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau ⁽ⁱ⁾	£85,000	£61,250	£60,000	£60,000
Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition	£750	£0	£0	£750
Relate Lancashire	£9,000	£0	£0	£0
Crossroad Care - Ribble Valley ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	£20,000	£15,000	£13,500	£13,500
Little Green Bus	£6,000	£5,000	£8,720	£0
Vitalise	£255	£0	£0	£0
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	£7,800	£3,000	£0	£0
Gisburn Festival Hall	£9,300	£0	£0	£0
Whalley Educational Foundation	£3,000	£0	£0	£0
Delivering Empowerment for Women in East Lancashire (DEWEL)	£1,000	£0	£0	£0
Clitheroe Chamber of Trade & Commerce	£1,000	£0	£0	£0
The Grand ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	No application	£5,000	£0	£0
Rotary Club of Clitheroe	No application	£500	£0	£0
Victim Support Lancashire	No application	£0	£0	£1,500
Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Society	No application	£250	£250	£250
Hodder Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society Ltd	No application	£250	£250	£250
Chipping Show Ltd	No application	£250	£250	£250
Total Grants requested/approved	£177,563	£100,500	£96,670	£94,660

Notes relevant to 2013/14 – (i) Includes Extra Voluntary Organisation Grant

(ii) Part Funded by Efficiency Support for Services in Sparse Areas Grant

(iii) Funded by Efficiency Support for Services in Sparse Areas Grant

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANTS 2014/15

Organisation	Recommended Grant 2014/15 £
Shopmobility and Information Centre	5,000
Carers Link - Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	2,000
Home-Start Pendle & Ribble Valley	3,000
Ribble Valley Citizens Advice Bureau	60,000
Crossroad Care - Ribble Valley	15,000
Little Green Bus	5,000
Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue	3,000
Whalley Educational Foundation	3,000
Clitheroe Chamber of Trade & Commerce	0**
Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Society	250
Hodder Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Society Ltd	250
Chipping Show Ltd	250
Total Grants approved	£96,750

** see paragraph 4.7 in main body of report