

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 13th November 2014.

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Subject:

Allocation of Community Centre Core Cost Grants and Community Development Grants for 2015-17

Summary statement:

This report outlines the recommendations of the Bradford East Area Committee Grant Advisory Group for Community Centre Core Costs and Community Development Grants.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines the recommendations of the Bradford East Area Committee Grant Advisory Group for Community Centre Core Costs and Community Development Grants.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A report setting out the basis on which the Executive devolved commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost grants to Area Committees to increase local democratic accountability and transparency was presented to Bradford East Area Committee on 17th September 2014.

2.2 The Council's budget continues to be under intense pressure as a consequence of both a shrinking national financial settlement and increased demand on services due to demographic change. Within this context the Council increasingly needs to find new ways to support and empower communities to identify self help solutions rather than relying on public funding.

2.3 Helping to ensure that communities are safer, clean and active communities is a Council priority. The community development approach to community support can contribute to building stronger sustainable communities in the following ways:

- Develop active communities
- Increase the active participation of residents in their neighbourhoods and communities
- Reduce the negative impact of budget reductions within neighbourhoods and with communities of interest and people on low incomes.
- Challenging disadvantage and inequalities
- Stimulate innovative and sustainable local solutions to issues.
- Build relations within and between communities

2.4 Community Centres may provide community support, in the following ways:

- Meeting space for community groups
- Local base to deliver a range of services including advice work
- Places to deliver activities
- Access to practical resource

3. Process undertaken to make recommendations on the use of funding for Community Development and Core Costs

3.1 The process undertaken was based on the framework outlined in Report taken to Bradford East Area Committee on 17th September 2014: Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees (Document N). This included in relation to community development grants:

- Considered how the Expression of Interest would make a contribution to priorities set out in Ward Plans.
- Community Development Grants are intended to support development work with communities and not for the management of community centres.
- Community Development Grants should only be awarded to organisations that demonstrate capacity to support staff using community development approaches.
- Community Development Grants should be awarded to organisations that can demonstrate an ability and commitment to deliver community development across a Ward and, where appropriate, across the Area.

The main priority of Community Centre Core Costs grants is organisations with low level of resources and without the funds to pay the full cost of running the centre without a core cost grant. Community Centres receiving a contribution to their core costs through a grant will be expected to be well run in the following respects:

- To be accessible to everyone within the local community, including young people
- Well maintained and clean facilities
- Have a responsible charging policy
- Have financial systems and controls in place
- Have a strong and responsible management committee
- To work in partnership with other agencies

3.2 Bradford East Area Committee delegated the responsibility of identifying funding recommendations for both the Community Centre Core Costs and Community Development Grants to the Grants Advisory Group. This involved assessing the Expressions of Interest, considering local needs and assessing any negative impact that could be incurred by not funding the organisations currently 'commissioned' to deliver community development in the Area. The Grant Advisory Group were requested by the Area Committee to report back on the 13th November 2014.

3.3 Grants will be awarded for a two year period to give organisations a degree of stability. In 2016-17 the value of the grant may alter in line with Council wide budget decisions.

3.4 Basis of the recommendation of the Grant Advisory Group in relation to Core Cost Grants:

1. Following an assessment of individual Expressions of Interests, Grant Advisory Group Members agreed that the actual needs of community centres for a contribution towards running costs were reflected in these submissions. Therefore the amount requested was used as the basis for making allocations (Three organisations made requests for above the maximum allowed).
2. Where organisations applied for non-eligible contributions to core costs, these were considered and adjustments made where Grant Advisory Group Members agreed this was appropriate.
3. Newton Street Day Centre was funded to the full amount requested, as this was a relatively low amount of money requested.
4. All other Expressions of Interest were funded to the maximum level of the request possible within the restraints of the funding available to the Area Committee for this purpose. Overall 66.6% of the amount requested were met as outlined in Table 1. (The three organisations that requested more than the maximum are recommended to receive 66.6% of the maximum)

Table 1: Grant Advisory Group Recommendations: Community Centre Core Costs

Centre/ Grant applicant	Allocation	
	2015-16*	2016-17*
Bradford Moor Community Centre	£1,333	£1,333
Eccleshill Community Association Ltd	£5,282	£5,282
Greenwood Youth and Community Centre	£6,400	£6,400
Karmand Community Centre	£3,633	£3,633
MAPA Bradford	£2,966	£2,966
Newton Street Day Centre	£1,000	£1,000
Parkside Community Centre	£3,800	£3,800
Ravenscliffe Community Association	£5,538	£5,538
The Springfield Centre	£6,400	£6,400
The Thornbury Youth and Community Centre	£6,400	£6,400
West Bowling Training and Advice Centre	£3,912	£3,912
Fagley Community Centre*	£3,213	£3,213
Sub Total	£49,877	£49,877
Contingency	£1,123	£1,123
Total	£51,000	£51,000

* This will be held in contingency and will only be made available if this organisation finds a suitable centre within the time period

3.6 Process applied by the Grant Advisory Group to make recommendations on awarding Community Development Grants based on the general criteria set out above in 3.1:

1. All the Expressions of Interest considered and evaluated.
2. The Needs of the Wards considered
3. The performance of existing organisations was considered
4. Impact assessments considered where there was the possibility of not funding an organisation, who currently receive a commission for community development.
5. All the above were considered collectively and recommendations made based on the quality of Expressions of Interest, needs of Wards and the potential negative impact of not funding organisations who currently receive a community development commission from Bradford Council.

Table 2: Grant Advisory Group Recommendations: Community Development

This will be tabled at the Area Committee meeting.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The approved reduction identified in the Council budget 2014-15 relating to the year 2015-16 is included in the figures presented in this paper. The allocations will need to be reviewed in the light of any subsequent decisions that affect the 2015-16 resources.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no significant risks and governance issues arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 This work relates directly to the Local Government Act 2000 and to the Duty of Well-being placed upon the Council to promote and improve the well-being of the District.
- 6.2 Under the Councils Constitution at Article 12, the Executive can delegate/devolve the discharge of functions to Area Committees. In discharging these functions, all decisions made must be in accordance with policies, strategies, plans or criteria agreed by the Council or Executive and within the approved budget.
- 6.3 Legal implications of any further devolution of budgets to Area Committees will be reviewed by the City Solicitor and any issues and constitutional amendments required will be considered by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for recommendation to Full Council.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The progressive distribution of grants to Areas with higher level needs will aid the development of initiatives which reduce inequalities.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Resources available to Bradford East Area Committee, described in this report, and used to support Bradford East Area Committee Action Plan 2014-17 will directly support the delivery of the District's Sustainable Community Strategy.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Actions to assist in identifying the greenhouse gas impacts of potential projects to be funded through this budget will be undertaken. These will include a consideration of, for example, energy efficiency opportunities in purchasing new equipment or refurbishing or modifying buildings.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 Community Safety issues are acknowledged as a key contributor to the quality of life in neighbourhoods. It is anticipated that a number of priorities supported through this budget will demonstrate a positive impact on community safety issues across Bradford East.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1 There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no implications related to Trade Unions arising from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1 The grants will contribute to work in the Bolton and Undercliffe, Eccleshill, Bradford Moor, Idle and Thackley, Bowling and Barkerend and Little Horton Wards.

- 7.7.2 The devolution of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees will enable a more tailored provision and to more accountability at a Ward level.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

- 7.8.1 The activities outlined in this report contribute to priorities within the Bradford East Ward Plans

7. Not for publication documents

None

8. OPTIONS

- 8.1 That Bradford East Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 8.2 That Bradford East Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 8.3 That Bradford East Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Bradford East Area Committee approves the recommendations on Core Cost Community Centre Grants made by the Grant Advisory Group
- 9.2 Bradford East Area Committee approves the recommendations on Community Development grants made by the Grant Advisory Group
- 9.3 Responsibility for any contingency funds to be delegated to the Area Coordinator. In the event on any legitimate request on these funds the Area Coordinator will consult with members of the Grant Advisory Group before making any award.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

'Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees' (Document N). Bradford East Area Committee 17th September 2014

"Devolution to Area Committees" (Document AG) report to the Council Executive on 9 October 2012.

"Devolution to Area Committees" (Document AG) Called – in Decision, to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 November 2012.

"Methodology for Allocation of Devolved Service Resources to the Five Area Committees" (Document CE) report to the Council Executive on 16 April 2013.

"Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees" (Document N) report to the Council Executive on 22 July 2014.