

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 27th 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 South 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 South 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 South Area Committee on 25th 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 South Area Committee on 25th 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 South 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 was requested by the Area Committee to report back on 27th 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. All Expressions of Interest considered for appropriateness
2. Amounts requested were amended in accordance with the criteria set out in the guidance note and expression of interest.
3. All organisations making an Expression of interest for Community Centre Core Costs are recommended to receive an Award. The value of these Grant Awards are set out in Table 1 below:

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

Centre/ Grant applicant	Allocation		Notes
	2015-16	2016-17*	
Bierley Community Centre, Bierley Community Association	£5,900	£5,310	Reduced as included 100% Council Tax
Bedale Centre, Buttershaw Christian Family Centre	£8,640	£7,776	Bedale is managed by BCFC following agreement with Adult Services to transfer responsibility
Queensbury Community Programme	£4,800	£4,320	50% of request funded to reflect that 50% of centre primary purpose is as a learning centre
Holmewood/ Wibsey Bradford Citadel Salvation Army	£1,000	£900	Amount reflected previous value of contribution from the Council.
The Cube, Bankfoot Partnership	£4,000	£3,600	High costs for professional fees, not seen as appropriate to fund.
Wyke Community & Children's Centre	£3,250	£2,925	Some requested funds not eligible.
Contingency	£2,410	£5,169	Reserved for organisations that may not have applied and to cover any unexpected circumstances
Total	£30,000	£30,000	

* Grants Advisory Group recommends a 10% reduction for 2016-17 for all organisations

3.5 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 Expressions of Interest entered by the deadline date were considered against the criteria set out in Community Development Grant guidance and in 2.3 of this report
2. The needs and priorities of Wards as set out within Ward Plans were considered
3. The Grant Advisory Group sought to match the Expressions of Interest with the Ward priorities.

3.6 Recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group

1. Community development support should be available to support priorities within the Ward Plans in all Wards in Bradford South. The best way to deliver this is through pairing Wards together.
2. Sandale Community Development Trust is offered an award of £25,000 to deliver work in the Wibsey and Royds Wards.
3. Two further grants to be offered to provide community development support in a) Tong / Wyke Wards and b) Great Horton / Queensbury Wards. Each grant to be for £25,000.
4. Organisations who have already made an Expression of Interest to be invited to provide further details of the community development support they could offer within Tong/ Wyke and/ or Great Horton/ Queensbury.
5. The Grant Advisory Group to assess the further details and make recommendations on organisation to grant fund and bring these recommendations to the next Bradford South Area Committee meeting.

Table 2: Grant Advisory Group Recommendations: Community Development

Wards	Grant holder	Allocation		Notes
		2015-16	2016-17	
Royds, Wibsey	Sandale Community Development Trust	£25,000	£25,000	Strong evidence of recent experience of delivering good quality community development work
Tong, Wyke	n/a	£25,000	£25,000	Request organisations to re-submit to deliver community development in these Wards
Great Horton, Queensbury	n/a	£25,000	£25,000	
Total		£75,000	£75,000	

3.7 Organisations who have submitted and Expression of Interest for a Community Development Grant:

Bradford Community Broadcasting, Bradford South and West Live at Home Scheme, Holme Christian Care Centre, Inn Churches, JAMES, Piece Project, Queensbury Community Programme, Royds Community Association, Salvation Army, Artworks Creative Communities, Sandale Community Development Trust and Healthy Lifestyles Solutions CIC.

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 South Area Committee, described in this report, and used to support Bradford South 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 South.

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 Great Horton, Queensbury, Royds, Tong, Wibsey and Wyke 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 South Ward Plans

7. Not for publication documents

None

8. OPTIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Bradford South Area Committee approves the Community Centre Core Cost recommendations, as set out in Table 1, made by the Grant Advisory Group.
- 9.2 Bradford South Area Committee approves the recommendation that Sandale Community Development Trust is allocated the Grant for Royds and Wibsey Wards made by the Grants Advisory Group.
- 9.3 Bradford South Area Committee approves the Grant Advisory Group's recommendation, as set out in Table 2, to provide further grants to ensure all Wards are covered.
- 9.4 The Grant Advisory Group is requested to assess the further details received and to present a report of its recommendations to the meeting of the Area Committee on the 22nd of January.

- 9.5 Responsibility for any contingency funds for the Community Centre Core Costs funds to be delegated to the Area Coordinator. The Area Coordinator will consult with members of the Grant Advisory Group before making any award and update the Area Committee.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

'Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees' (Document N). Bradford South Area Committee 25th 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.