

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Keighley 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 Keighley Area Committee Grants Advisory Group for Community Centre Core Costs and Community Development Grants for 2015-17.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the recommendations of the Keighley Area Committee Grants Advisory Group for Community Centre Core Costs and Community Development Grants for 2015-17.

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 Keighley Area Committee on 11th 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. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The process undertaken to make recommendations on the use of funding for Community Development and Core Cost grants was based on the framework outlined in the report taken to Keighley Area Committee on 11th September 2014: Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees (Document K). 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.

3.2 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

3.3 Keighley 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 The recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group in relation to Core Cost Grants is set out in Table 1 below:

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

| Centre/ Grant applicant | Allocation | | Notes |
|---|------------|--|--|
| | 2015-16 | | |
| Bangladeshi Community Association | £4,633 | | Equal Split for EOI's over £5,000 |
| Bracken Bank and District Community Association | £4,633 | | Equal Split for EOI's over £5,000 |
| Braithwaite People's Association (BPA) | £4,633 | | Equal Split for EOI's over £5,000 |
| Hainworth Wood Community Centre | £4,202 | | Less than £5,000; recommend requested amount |
| Highfield Community Association | £4,633 | | Equal Split for EOI's over £5,000 |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| Keighley Association for Women and Children's Centre | £4,633 | | Equal Split for EOI's over £5,000 |
| Keighley Disabled People's Centre | £4,633 | | Equal Split for EOI's over £5,000 |
| Oxenhope Community Association | £2,000 | | Less than £5,000; recommend requested amount |
| Salvation Army, Bradford Keighley, The | £1,000 | | Not funded previously, recommend contribution towards costs. |
| Sub Total | £35,000 | | |
| Contingency | £7,000 | | To include fund for any centres with a need that comes to light and or emerging situations |
| Transfer to Community Development Grants | £1,000 | | |
| Total | £43,000 | | |

The GAG recommends a 10% reduction in allocations for 2016-17

3.6 The process applied by the Grants Advisory Group to make recommendations on awarding Community Development Grants involved:

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

3.7 The recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group in relation to Community Development Grants is set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Grants Advisory Group Recommendations: Community Development

| Wards | Grant applicant | Allocation | | Notes |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|---|
| | | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | |
| Keighley Central & Craven | Keighley & Ilkley Voluntary and Community Action | £21,000 | £21,000 | Evidence of recent experience of delivering good quality community development work |
| Keighley East & Ilkley | Hainworth Wood Community Centre | £21,000 | £21,000 | Evidence of recent experience of good relationships, knowledge and reputation in the local community and wider Ward |
| Keighley West & Worth Valley | Bracken Bank & District Community Association | £21,000 | £21,000 | Evidence of recent experience of delivering good quality community development work |
| Total | | £63,000 | £63,000 | |

- 3.8 In relation to the Ward pairings in Table 2 above it is noted that these align with the pairings used for Ward Officer responsibility. The Grants Advisory Group recommends that the majority of the community development work is carried out in the 'Keighley' Ward in each pairing, but that, where the need can be clearly demonstrated and capacity allows, work should also be carried out in the 'other' Ward.
- 3.9 The Grants Advisory Group also made recommendations regarding the Grant Agreement that will be made between Bradford Council and those organisations in receipt of a Community Development Grant, as follows:
- 3.9.1 Regular, suggested quarterly, reporting of the community development work carried out by each organisation to Keighley Area Committee.
 - 3.9.2 Community Development work should clearly relate to priorities within the Ward Plans.
 - 3.9.3 Community Development workers will be expected to plan work 3 months ahead and performance will be measured against this Forward Plan.
 - 3.9.4 The organisations in receipt of the grants, and the Community Development workers themselves, should have strong working relationships with both the Area Co-ordinator's Office and the Ward Members.
- 3.9 Table 3 gives details of one organisation which currently receives a community development 'commission' from the Council whom the Grants Advisory Group are not recommending for receipt of a Community Development Grant for 2015-17:

Table 3: Impact assessment summary and mitigation

| Organisation | Issues identified in the Impact Assessment | Mitigation |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Keighley Volunteer Centre | - loss of current levels of support for the local communities in Keighley West Ward | - Community development work will continue in Keighley West Ward delivered by an organisation which already delivers high quality community development work in that Ward. |

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 Keighley Area Committee, described in this report, and used to support Keighley 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

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 Keighley Area.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

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

The recommendations contained in this report affect all Wards in the Keighley Area.

8. Not for publication documents

None

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 That Keighley Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 9.2 That Keighley Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 9.3 That Keighley Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Keighley Area Committee approves the recommendations on Core Cost Community Centre Grants made by the Grants Advisory Group as detailed in Table 1 of this report.
- 10.2 That Keighley Area Committee approves the recommendations on Community Development grants made by the Grants Advisory Group as detailed in Table 2 of this report.
- 10.3 That Keighley Area Committee approves the recommendations made by the Grants Advisory Group relating to Ward pairings and work priorities, and the contents of the Grant Agreement as set out in Para 3.8 and 3.9 of this report.
- 10.4 That responsibility for any contingency funds is delegated to the Keighley Area Co-ordinator. In the event on any legitimate request on these funds the Area Co-ordinator will consult with members of the Grants Advisory Group before making any award.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 11.1 'Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees' (Document N). Bradford South Area Committee 25th September 2014
- 11.2 "Devolution to Area Committees" (Document AG) report to the Council Executive on 9 October 2012.
- 11.3 "Devolution to Area Committees" (Document AG) Called – in Decision, to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 November 2012.
- 11.4 "Methodology for Allocation of Devolved Service Resources to the Five Area Committees" (Document CE) report to the Council Executive on 16 April 2013.

- 11.5 “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.
- 11.6 “Devolution of commissioning of Community Development and Community Centre Core Cost Grants to Area Committees”, (Document K) report to Keighley Area Committee on 11 September 2014.