

CABINET

13 FEBRUARY 2007

COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2007/08

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

Contact Officer: Steve Lincoln - Tel No: 01962 848110

RECENT REFERENCES:

WTF85 'Community Grants Revenue Awards 2007/08' 16 January 2007

CAB1340 'Review of Revenue Grant Processes' 15 November 2006

CAB1200 'Community Grants – Revenue Awards 2006/07' 7 February 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks approval for the choice of key clients for the next three years and for the level of revenue grants to be awarded to them and other voluntary and community sector applicants in 2007/08.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet, subject to Council approval of the 2007/08 budget provision,:-

- 1 Notes the grants approved by Winchester Town Forum for 2007/08, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2 Approves, subject to consideration of report CAB1382 later on this agenda, the award to Hatfair of
 - (i) 'Key Client' status for the period 2007-2010

- (ii) A revenue grant for 2007/08 of £30,425, from the approved revenue grants budget on condition that it enters into a clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets

3 Approves the award of 'Key Client' status to the following for the period 2007-2010:

- (i) Winchester Area Community Action
- (ii) Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau
- (iii) Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau
- (iv) Trinity Winchester
- (v) Tower Arts Centre

4 Approves the following revenue grant awards for 2007/08, from the approved revenue grants budget on condition that each organisation enters into clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

(i)	Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau	£120,837
(ii)	Winchester Area Community Action (including £2,000 for LSP work)	£102,927
(iii)	Trinity Winchester	£84,903
(iv)	Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau	£41,630
(v)	Tower Arts Centre	£18,900
(vi)	Homestart Meon Valley	£12,000
(vii)	Winchester and District Savers	£10,000
(viii)	Streetreach – Winchester Detached Youth Project	£7,650
(ix)	Theatre Royal Winchester Rural Youth Theatre	£7,500
(x)	Winchester Churches Housing Group (Keystone)	£6,000
(xi)	Winchester Live at Home Scheme	£4,950
(xii)	Carroll Centre (The)	£4,625
(xiii)	Relate	£4,625
(xiv)	Winnall Community Centre Playscheme	£4,604

(xv)	Homestart Winchester & Districts	£4,500
(xvi)	King Alfred Youth Activity Centre	£4,500
(xvii)	Signature Care & Support (Victoria House)	£4,500
(xviii)	Winnall Rock School	£4,500
(xix)	Nightshelter (Winchester Churches)	£3,600
(xx)	Trinity Winchester – Women’s Centre	£2,700
(xxi)	Winchester Youth Counselling	£2,250
(xxii)	Bishops Waltham Festival	£2,000
(xxiii)	Wickham Festival	£2,000
(xxiv)	Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£2,000
(xxv)	Winchester Young Carers	£1,900
(xxvi)	Winchester Festival	£1,800
(xxvii)	Havant & District Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,328
(xxviii)	SNAPS	£1,200
(xxix)	Wickham Youth Club	£1,000
(xxx)	Winchester Carer Centre	£1,000
(xxxi)	Winchester Festival of Art and the Mind	£1,000
(xxxii)	Olive Branch (The)	£900
(xxxiii)	Winchester Folk Festival (WinMad)	£900
(xxxiv)	Winnall Youth Club	£900

5 Expresses regret that it is unable to support the following applications:

- (i) SCRATCH
- (ii) European Law Monitor
- (iii) Hampshire Youth Options
- (iv) Kudos Employment
- (v) Triangle Playgroup

(vi) Tribe Community Arts Ltd

(vii) University of Winchester

(viii) Winchester Centre

6 Approves the allocation from the revenue grant budget of £9,846 for 2007/08 for the Community Chest programme.

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COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2007/08

Report of Director of Communities

DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the formal requests for revenue grant assistance from the City Council in 2007/08 and recommends appropriate levels of support for each.
- 1.2 The report explains the rationale and underlying assumptions leading to the recommended grant awards. It is important to note that the figures for the revenue budget used throughout this report are those in the draft 2007/08 budget and any subsequent change to the budget will require adjustments to the awards proposed by Cabinet at a later date.
- 1.3 Further to the success of the Community Chest scheme in recent years a request for a further budget allocation is made to enable the continuation of this small grants programme.
- 1.4 The original application forms and supporting documents are held in the Community Development Team in the Communities Directorate. In the interests of economy, additional copies have not been taken however any Member wishing to study the forms prior to the meeting should contact the Partnership and External Funding Officer who will make the appropriate arrangements.

2 Key Clients

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15th November 2006 Cabinet approved a process for the review of current key clients and selection of new key clients for the period 2007-2010. An Informal Member/Officer Group met on 18th December 2006 to receive presentations from ten short listed organisations.
- 2.2 As detailed in the report to Cabinet in November, the impact of being chosen as a key client is that the organisation:
 - a) will be subject to a greater level of reporting and monitoring via the SLA
 - b) can be assured of grant support for the period 2007-2010, although the level of grant will be applied for, and approved, on an annual basis
 - c) will be considered for a three-year funding agreement **IF** the Council decides that it is able to enter into such agreements during the period 2007-2010
- 2.3 Six organisations have been recommended for key client status for the coming three years, five of which are currently recognised as key clients. The sixth (and new) key

client is recommended to be the Tower Arts Centre, meaning that the six organisations recommended are:

- (i) Winchester Area Community Action
- (ii) Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau
- (iii) Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau
- (iv) Hatfair (subject to consideration of report CAB1382 – see section 3.9 of this report for more detail)
- (v) Trinity Winchester
- (vi) Tower Arts Centre

3 Overview

- 3.1 The available budget for revenue grants in 2007/08 is £513,900, with no increase on last financial year. Cabinet will note that the total request for grant assistance of £736,881 outstrips the resources available (including the Town Account) by £198,481. Notwithstanding the fact that every application has merit, each has been subject to thorough scrutiny and evaluation in order to present a fair and equitable funding position to Members. A detailed explanation of the assumptions underlying the grant recommendations and the assessment criteria used is given in section 4.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 shows the details of past grant awards as well as the requested grant, grant approved for 2007/08 by the Town Forum and the recommended approval amount for 2007/08. Any issues requiring note have been specified in the 'Comments' column. This column of the table also shows the variation in the 2007/08 grant award in comparison with the current financial year (if any).
- 3.3 The standstill nature of the budget has prevented any significant increase in grants to existing clients. A small increase has been given to 11 of the applicants. Grants for three new applicants are also recommended.
- 3.4 Consideration has again been given to increasing the range and number of organisations receiving revenue grant. However, this comes at a cost to those clients already receiving grant. Every attempt has been made to minimise any negative impact on the Council's key clients and to keep reductions to others to manageable proportions. It is acknowledged that the Key Clients are in a vulnerable funding position and that Winchester City Council support is vital. Whilst it is acknowledged that a balance needs to be created between supporting existing and encouraging new clients within the tight budget restraints, support for new applicants from the revenue budget has only been possible for three organisations this financial year.
- 3.5 It should be noted that the proportion of funds in 2007/08 allocated to support the six proposed 'key' clients represents 77% of the total available budget for revenue grants.
- 3.6 The apportionment of the available budget (including the Town Account element) between 'arts', 'community' and 'housing' organisations is 14%, 83%, and 3%, respectively. A separate calculation shows that across all the grants (again including

the Town Account contribution) 11% of the grants are awarded to organisations providing direct service delivery to young people.

- 3.7 It is recommended that a sum of £9,846 is made available for the Community Chest Scheme in 2007/08. This allocation represents 2% of the revenue grants budget and would provide very small grants of up to £500 for one-off items of expenditure. In the three years since the Scheme was established, 134 grants have been awarded to a wide range of smaller community and voluntary organisations.
- 3.8 As Cabinet will appreciate the revenue grants scheme is highly over-subscribed with a total of 34 existing and 10 new applicant organisations requesting grant and it should be noted that any upward amendment to a recommended grant level can only be accommodated by a compensatory saving elsewhere.
- 3.9 Following recommendations arising from an Internal Audit of grants in 2006, the Council has undertaken a risk assessment exercise on the benefits and associated risks with the grant aid contribution for the Hatfair. Future arrangements for grant funding if the Hatfair may be influenced by the findings of this risk assessment, which is reported later on this agenda (see CAB1382). Therefore, any recommendation in this report relating to the Hatfair should be considered subject to the outcome of that later debate.

4 Assessment Process

- 4.1 A number of difficult decisions had to be made in order to reconcile supply and demand for the revenue grants. The recommendations in this report represent the outcome of a robust evaluation process. Each application has been considered against the assessment matrix, which is attached as Appendix 2 and which was issued with the application forms. Considerable effort has been made to ensure that each application has been subjected to a fair and objective process.
- 4.2 The assessment process was undertaken by a panel comprising of the Community Development Manager, the Partnership & External Funding Officer, the Housing Enabling Officer, the Arts Development Officer and the Chief Officer of Test Valley Community Services. A copy of the assessment matrix was issued with the application forms. Considerable effort has been made to ensure that each application has been subjected to a fair and objective process. This process informed the recommendations outlined in this report, made in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport (who holds the remit for grants) and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities.
- 4.3 The grants for 2007/08 have been assessed according to the policies and process, as approved by Cabinet on 12 October 2005. These priorities, which can be viewed in Appendix 2, relate directly to the theme areas and priorities of the Community Strategy as well as the delivery of the social inclusion aspects of the Corporate Strategy (as at the time of the application process).
- 4.4 A further check of the applications has been completed by the Assistant Director of Finance.

5 Applications for 2007/08

- 5.1 It is proposed that grant to eleven organisations is increased:

- i. Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau
- ii. Carroll Centre (The)
- iii. Havant & District Citizens Advice Bureau
- iv. RELATE
- v. Signature Care and Support
- vi. Trinity Winchester
- vii. Winchester Area Community Action
- viii. Winchester Churches Housing Group
- ix. Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau
- x. Winchester Live at Home Scheme
- xi. Winnall Community Centre Playscheme

Whilst unable to meet the full extent of the funding requirement in majority of cases, it was felt important to increase the financial support from the City Council for these services. These increases were made possible due to reductions in grant to other applicants as detailed below.

- 5.2 The grant recommended for Winchester Area Community Action includes an additional £2,000 from the Chief Executive's department to support the organisation in its important role on the Local Strategic Partnership. This is slightly less than the requested figure of £2,500 but will be reviewed annually by the Chief Executive's department. For ease of administration it will be included in the Service Level Agreement for the main revenue grant.
- 5.3 It is recommended that grant support is withdrawn from one existing client, SCRATCH. Whilst very supportive of the work undertaken in supporting Winchester residents, it was recognised that SCRATCH receives funding from the HRA to support services to tenants and from other Housing Associations in respect of their own tenants.
- 5.4 It is further recommended that the grant award to three organisations is reduced. Bishops Waltham Festival, Nightshelter (Winchester Churches Together), and Winchester and District Savers. The recommended award was reduced for the following reasons:
 - a) Bishops Waltham Festival – a reduced figure brings the level of support in line with that provided to other similar festivals.
 - b) Nightshelter - the significant free reserves of this group demonstrate that they do not require the level of grant provided in previous years.
 - c) Winchester and District Savers – concerns were raised at the level of further funding required at this time, while discussions are ongoing to identify the best way to secure accreditation as an operational credit union.

- d) Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme - due to the financial circumstances of the scheme, they have applied for a reduced grant for 2007/08.
- 5.5 Three new applications are recommended grant for the first time – Trinity Winchester Women's Centre, Wickham Festival and Winchester Rural Youth Theatre (Theatre Royal). Although this is the first year that the Rural Youth Theatre work has been supported through the grant process, it has been funded to a similar level in previous years through the arts development and holiday play scheme budgets.
- 6 The Town Forum.
- 6.1 Further to the previous agreement of the Town Forum, a number of grants have been recommended for consideration from the Town Charge. The Town Forum considers any revenue applications that are of relevance to the Town Area and performs a funding role similar to that of the Parish Councils. All applications considered by the Town Forum have been identified as such in Appendix 1. Parish Councils make contributions to a number of the applications shown in Appendix 1 however unlike the capital grant scheme Members should note that parish council support is not a condition of revenue grant from the City Council as applications tend to be of wider than purely local significance e.g. Bishops Waltham CAB.
- 6.2 For 2007/08 the Town Forum has changed the way in which it allocates its revenue grant budget. The result of this change in approach is that any organisation approved for grant aid which provides services to a significant number of residents of the Town area will receive a grant from the Town Forum. This means that 21 organisations will receive a grant in 2007/08 rather than 4 in 2006/07, although the grant allocated to each organisation will be significantly less. A further result of this is that the 4 organisations which received no grant from the General Fund in previous years will now require support. These are the Carroll Centre, King Alfred Youth Activity Centre (KAYAC), Winnall Rock School and the Winnall Community Centre Playscheme.
- 6.3 Applications affecting the Town Area were considered by the Town Forum on 16th January 2007 and the recommendations are outlined above. It should be noted that the recommended levels of grant have been limited by the budget available from the Town Account (£25,000 in 2007/08) and were approved subject to subject to Council's approval of the Town Accounts budget on 28 February 2007 and Cabinet's approval of the balancing revenue grant funds (as set out in Appendix 1 of WTF85) at this meeting.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- 7 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):
- 7.1 The community grants scheme is of direct relevance to a number of key objectives and priority areas. Following a review of the priorities and policies of the revenue grant schemes, agreed by Cabinet in October 2005, all organisations approved funding will be contributing to both the Community Strategy and the Corporate Strategy. A copy of the priorities can be found at Appendix 2.
- 7.2 A number of the above projects are assisted under the well-being power in S2 Local Government Act 2000. This is the power to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area – and is relevant to partnership working with other community organisations. The Council has to have regard to any relevant

provisions of the community strategy, as well as the above strategies in making grants.

- 7.3 All of the above projects contribute delivery of the community strategy, in particular the themes of 'Health & Well Being' and 'Inclusive Society' as well as the key drivers of 'Housing' and 'Leisure & Recreation' and the cross-cutting issues of 'An Aging Population' and 'Well Being of Children & Young People'. Detail for each application is provided in Appendix 1.
- 7.4 The Statutory Guidance on the well-being power would not prevent grants being made as proposed. Some projects can also be justified under other powers e.g. S19 Local Government Act 1976 – non-profit making recreation projects; S142 Local Government Act 1972 – advice on people's rights; S 145 Local Government Act 1972 – promotion of the arts and S73 Housing Act 1985 – assistance for voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 The recommendations in this report demand a total revenue commitment of £515,900. This can be met from the proposed budget for grants in 2007/08, which will be decided upon as part of the budget consideration taking place elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting. Detailed debate on the resource issues is included in Section 3 of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Application Details 2007/08

Appendix 2: Policy Criteria and Assessment Matrix 2007/08