

Community Grants 2014/15

Meeting to determine final allocations proposals from General Fund

10 December 2013

Present

Cllr Keith Wood

Cllr Stephen Godfrey

Cllr Rob Humby

Melissa Fletcher

Eloise Appleby

1. Textiles recycling income

It was agreed that any income from the recycling scheme should provide new revenue for community project grants, but not core funding. This would be channelled through the existing project grants programme in order to avoid any growth in administration time and cost.

The scheme was likely to start generating income in the 4th quarter of the current financial year, according to the current project timetable.

CllrW asked to have PR lined up ready for when the textile banks appear in the car parks, flagging up the benefit to local voluntary organisations.

Action: ECA/Rob Heathcock/Corp Comms.

Melissa to look at project grants criteria and branding with Cllrs Humby and Godfrey to ensure that they are appropriate for the textiles scheme.

Action: Melissa/Cllrs H & G

It was agreed that the textiles fund would not be included on the summary of grants for 2014/15 because it was still at an early stage and both the amounts and timings were yet to be established.

2. Overall Grants Budget

An overall target saving of 5% had been set for the grants budget as informal guidance at the outset of the core grants process. This was in line with savings made elsewhere in the Council for 2014/15.

Most partner organisations had a 5% saving proposed by the grants evaluation panel unless there was a particular reason to maintain standstill funding.

Members considered whether these 5% savings could be avoided by reducing the budget for small grants and projects. However, it was recognised that these were generally over subscribed and allowed the Council to support a very wide cross section of community groups during the course of the year.

Members then decided that in view of the valuable services being provided by all voluntary organisations, the 5% cut should not be applied to any core grants in 2014/15.

This decision also applied to the CAB, which was on a planned three-year programme of reductions. Members asked that outreach services to the southern parishes be protected as far as possible as a result of this decision not to reduce the grant.

Action: MF to discuss outreach requirement with CAB in advance of final grants decision at Cabinet in February.

The exception to the decision to maintain core funding was Winnall Junior Youth Club. Following the recommendations of the grants panel, it was felt that youth club provision was being consolidated at KAYAC with the support of grant funding from HCC Children's Services, and that the current provision at the Community Centre was not sustainable. Core funding from the General Fund would therefore not be maintained, but the Youth Club could apply for a project grant for appropriate initiatives in the future.

3. New Applications

A number of new applications for core funding had been received. These included:

- Denmead Community Association
not eligible: criteria for the scheme state that community associations cannot be core funded

- Bumps to Bundles
not prioritised for funding, in line with decision for 2013/14

- Winchester Street Dance Academy
not prioritised for funding, in line with decision for 2013/14 – the panel felt that the organisation would benefit from becoming more established, and receiving some mentoring support. The Council's arts advisor could provide this.

The recommendations of the evaluation panel relating to the above were all endorsed during this meeting.

-Ends-