



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
16 January 2007

Cabinet Member for Adult Services

ITEM 8

Community Grants Budget Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding for 2007/8

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out Community Grants Budget grant funding to be provided to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in 2007/2008.
- 1.2 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the proposed grant funding for the Community Grants Budget (CGB), set out in Appendix 2 of the report subject to the final decision on the revenue budget made by Council.
- 2.2 To approve a review of the CGB application and decision making process, to ensure maximum efficiency, effectiveness and transparency and to balance the need for sustainability with the need to meet strategic priorities. An analysis of the funding for luncheon club provision will need to form part of this review. Owing to the difficult financial position faced by the Council, further savings of at least £10,000 will need to be found during the course of 2007/8. This will be the subject of a subsequent report.
- 2.3 To approve the transfer of grant funding for Derwent Stepping Stones from the Community Grants Budget to Children and Young People's Services.
- 2.4 To confirm that, since Asian Over 60's has not met some of the key requirements of the Community Legal Service Quality Mark Standard following a recent audit, 6 month's notice will be given to the organisation to provide them with a final opportunity to comply with the standard and to implement improvements to financial procedures. If, after this time, these conditions of funding have still not been met, the grant funding for the advice service will come to an end.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 An inflationary increase of 2.5% is being recommended for all Council Voluntary Sector grant funding for 2007/8. This inflationary increase is necessary to ensure that services do not become unsustainable.

- 3.2 The Council restructuring and the mid-year decision to relocate the Community Grants Budget within Corporate and Adult Social Services, left insufficient time for the usual CGB application process. The recommendations contained in this report are therefore based on the results of monitoring and review processes, rather than an application process.
- 3.3 The recommendation to transfer the grant funding for Derwent Stepping Stones to Children and Young People's Services is to ensure that this funding agreement is managed within the most appropriate department.
- 3.4 Asian Over 60's is the only grant funded advice service which did not achieve the full Community Legal Service Quality Mark. The organisation was very late in securing a provisional Quality Mark, therefore its implementation of the standard was never audited by the Legal Services Commission. It is an established Council policy that meeting the Quality Mark Standard is a condition of grant funding for all organisations providing advice services and the organisation has had over 2 years since the provisional Quality Mark in which to implement the requirements. A six month notice period will provide the organisation with a final opportunity to comply with the Quality Mark Standard and other conditions of funding.



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16 January 2007

Report of the Director of Corporate and
Adult Social Services

Community Grants Budget Voluntary and Community Sector Funding for 2007/8

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendations for Community Grants Budget funding to be provided to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in 2007/8.
- 1.2 The mid-year decision to transfer the management of the Community Grants Budget to Corporate and Adult Social Services left insufficient time to undertake the lengthy application and appraisal process. The recommendations for continued Community Grants Budget funding for 2007/8 are therefore based on the results of monitoring and review processes, rather than the usual application process. It is therefore recommended that, subject to satisfactory monitoring and review, the grants listed at Appendix 2 should be rolled over to the 2007/8 financial year, pending a review of the Community Grants Budget process (see 1.5, below).
- 1.3 An inflationary increase of 2.5% is being recommended for all Council Voluntary Sector grant funding for 2007/8. Owing to the significant budgetary pressures faced by the Council, inflationary increases were not provided for the previous financial year. However, this exacerbated existing cost pressures within the Voluntary Sector. An inflationary increase for 2007/8 is necessary, both to avoid unacceptable risk to the sustainability of services and in order to comply with the spirit and letter of the Council's Compact with the Voluntary Sector.
- 1.4 **Compact and principles of Voluntary Sector funding**

The Council is committed to complying with the principles and undertakings set out in the Compact and related Codes of Practice. In the case of multi-year funding agreements, the Council has undertaken to consult with Voluntary Sector Organisations prior to any reduction in funding and also to provide a minimum of 3 months notice. The Council is also committed to taking a strategic approach to grant funding, to ensure that Voluntary Sector funding is targeted as effectively as possible and delivers Best Value for service users.

1.5 CGB review and the need to make cost savings

One of the aims of the proposed review of the CGB process is to ensure that the Council's administrative processes are as efficient, effective and transparent as possible, whilst also supporting an appropriate balance between maintaining the sustainability of the sector and providing scope for meeting the changing needs and priorities of our communities. An analysis of the current funding for luncheon club provision will need to form part of this review. Owing to the budgetary pressures faced by the Council, it will also be necessary to identify at least a further £10,000 in cost savings to be made during 2007/8, as part of this review.

1.6 Community Legal Advice Centre

The Council has been in discussion with the Legal Services Commission concerning the development of a Community Legal Advice Centre (CLAC) in Derby. It has been proposed that some of the existing Community Grants Budget funding for advice services should form part of the financial envelope for the CLAC. The Council is currently in the process of consulting organisations concerning the implications of the CLAC proposals. The final recommendation concerning the CLAC and CGB funding for advice organisations will be included in a later Cabinet Report, once the consultation with advice providers has been concluded.

1.7 Derwent Stepping Stones

For some years, this grant funding has been managed through the Community Grants Budget. However, it is recognised that Derwent Stepping Stones provides a key service for children and families in the Derwent area, forming part of the Children's Centre and being located in the Area 1 pilot for Integrated Children's Services. It is therefore recommended that this grant funding should transfer to Children and Young People's Services, to ensure that it is managed by the department with the relevant strategic responsibility for children's services.

1.8 Asian Over 60's

There has been a long history of financial and service delivery concerns with this organisation. Over recent months, there have been a number of meetings and discussions involving Councillors, Senior Officers and the organisation itself, in an attempt to resolve these concerns. An audit has been undertaken to look at the financial management of the organisation, the luncheon club provision and drop in services and, in particular, whether the advice service meets the required Quality Mark Standard. Whilst some improvements are being made to the financial management and governance of the organisation, the findings from this review confirmed that the organisation is not meeting some of the key Quality Mark requirements. It is Council policy that funding for all advice services is dependent upon compliance with this standard, therefore 6 months notice will be given to allow the organisation a final opportunity to comply with the Quality Mark Standard and to meet other conditions of funding.

1.9 Emergent Communities

Recent discussions with representatives of emergent communities in Derby have been held, jointly with the Community Safety Partnership, to consider both community cohesion issues and how the Council can better support the developing voluntary and community sector within emerging communities. The results were reported back to the Minority Ethnic Communities Equalities Forum (formerly MECAC) on 16th November. It is proposed to bring these considerations into the review of the CGB grants application and decision making process, to ensure that grants are effectively targeted and used to support all parts of Derby's communities.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. None.

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Background papers:	Appendix 1 - Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 - Voluntary Sector Grant Funding for the Community Grants Budget, 2007/8

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The total cost of the grant funding recommendations listed at Appendix 2 can be met within the Community Grants Budget allocation for 2007/8, subject to:
- the final setting of the Council's budget in March 2007
 - the continued availability of NRF funding to meet 50% of the costs of grants which transferred from the former Social Services Department, as per the 17 January 2006 Cabinet Reports.
 - identifying cost savings of at least £10,000 to be made during the course of 2007/8. This will be the subject of a subsequent Cabinet Report.
- 1.2 Payment of the approved funding will be subject to compliance with Funding Agreements.

Legal

- 2.1 Powers to provide funding in the above circumstances are granted under the Children Act 1989, the National Assistance Act 1948, the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 and the National Health Services Act 1977.
- 2.2 Each organisation receiving assistance will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Council.

Personnel

3. The Voluntary Sector Team will be considering how best to manage Corporate and Adult Social Services grant funding, along with its lead responsibility for the development of Voluntary Sector policy and strategy, within existing staffing levels.

Equalities impact

4. The services and activities of the organisations named in this report provide support across all communities, particularly those experiencing disadvantage and social exclusion.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. This accords with the Council's objective of promoting strong and positive communities and protecting and supporting people.

Community Grants Budget

Organisation Name	Grant 2006/7	Recommended Grant 2007/8
Age Concern Derby and Derbyshire	£10,300	£10,558
Alternatives Activity Centre	£14,720	£15,088
Asian Advisory Service	£5,150	£5,279
Asian Over 60s Lunch Club	£10,931	£11,204
Asian Over 60s Advice Centre	£26,715	£27,383
Asian Women's Day Service (Milap)	£6,271	£6,428
Asian Women's Luncheon Club	£2,993	£3,068
Austin Community Enterprise Ltd	£4,640	£4,756
Business in the Community	£10,580	£10,845
Chaddesden Age Concern	£2,817	£2,886
Chester Green Monday Lunch Club	£1,821	£1,867
Communication Unlimited	£33,280	£34,112
Derby African Association	£2,962	£3,036
Derby Citizens Advice Bureau	£156,780	£160,700
Derby Clothing Store	£3,467	£3,554
Derby Community Accountancy Service	£19,040	£19,516
Derby Community Transport Social Car Scheme	£7,894	£8,091
Derby CVS - General	£98,550	£101,014
Derby CVS - Volunteer Centre	£22,834	£23,405
Derby Furniture Project	£45,320	£46,453
Derby Law Centre	£136,100	£139,503
Derby Millennium Network	£48,660	£49,877
Derby Minority Senior Citizens Men's Luncheon Club	£8,211	£8,416
Derby Minority Senior Citizens Ladies Luncheon Club	£4,569	£4,683
Derby Racial Equality Council	£70,110	£71,863
Derby Shopmobility	£18,160	£18,614
Derby West Indian Association Credit Union Ltd	£5,700	£5,843

Derby West Indian Community Association	£24,720	£25,338
Derby Women's Centre	£40,583	£41,598
Derbyshire Association for the Blind	£5,690	£5,832
Derbyshire Chinese Welfare Association	£3,480	£3,567
Derbyshire Community Foundation	£2,650	£2,716
Derbyshire Housing Aid	£9,800	£10,045
Derwent Luncheon Club	£607	£622
Derwent Social Club	£1,311	£1,344
Disability Direct	£19,066	£19,543
Geeta Bhavan Hindu Temple Luncheon Club	£1,942	£1,991
Indian Community Centre Luncheon Club	£2,312	£2,370
Indian Community Luncheon Club	£4,128	£4,231
Opieka	£4,784	£4,904
Play & Recycling Centre	£11,210	£11,490
Relate Derby and Southern Derbyshire	£12,253	£12,559
Samaritans	£607	£622
Sinfin and Stenson Fields Asian Over 60's	£4,296	£4,403
Southern Derbyshire Pensioners Association	£9,189	£9,419
SUPPORT Ltd	£32,690	£33,507
Ukrainian Day Centre	£10,096	£10,348
Oakleigh Craft Club ¹	£547	-
Older and Disabled People's Grants ²	£8,000	£8,000
Derwent Stepping Stones ³	£12,360	-
Unallocated balance from 2006/7 ⁴	£13,861	-
TOTAL	£1,014,757	£1,012,491

¹ Oakleigh Craft Club ceased to operate during 2006/7.

² Older and Disabled People's Grants are small, non-key decisions, made in consultation with the Cabinet Member

³ Derwent Stepping Stones budget transferring to Children and Young People's Department

⁴ The unallocated balance is being used to meet any urgent financial pressures in the voluntary sector during 2006/7, but will not be available in 2007/8 and represents a reduction in the overall budget of £13,861.