



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
17 JANUARY 2006

Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Community Grants Budget 2006/07

SUMMARY

- 1.1 We have considered a number of options for the allocation of the Community Grants Budget – CGB – grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2006/07.
- 1.2 A total of 45 organisations have applied for CGB funding in 2006/07. The CGB now has an assumed budget of £851,491 in 2006/07, subject to the setting of the Council's budget in March 2006.
- 1.3 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To continue funding 13 organisations on a three year basis – 11 of whom will be in their final year of CGB funding in 2006/07, to begin funding a further 2 organisations on a three year basis and to fund 10 organisations on a one year basis during 2006/07.
- 2.2 To approve the allocation of the Community Grants Budget grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2006/09 as outlined in this report and detailed in the appendices.
- 2.3 To approve grants to existing CGB funded organisations at the same level as they were funded in 2005/06, with no inflationary increase.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Community Grants Budget is limited, so the Council is not able to support all the organisations which applied for funding in 2006/7. Continuing to fund existing CGB funded organisations is the option which will cause the least disruption to the voluntary organisations supported by the Council.



Community Grants Budget 2006/07

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Community Grants Budget provides core revenue funding of £2,000 and above for voluntary and community organisations in Derby. Organisations' service areas need to fit within one of the CGB criteria below to be eligible for funding.
- To support voluntary and community sector infrastructure - organisations that provide development support to the voluntary and community sector **or**
 - To strengthen communities by:
 - providing advice, information or advocacy, or
 - supporting new and emerging communities, or
 - supporting activities designed to develop socially excluded communities or access to services for those communities, or
 - supporting organisations that have a specific role in taking forward neighbourhood development.
- 1.2 Organisations applying for three-year funding must meet one of two additional criteria
- Organisations which are concerned with supporting voluntary and community sector infrastructure, city-wide or in Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy priority neighbourhoods
- Or
- Organisations which play a strategic role in helping people to access information and advice on a city-wide basis.
- 1.3 There were 32 applications received for funding from the CGB, and 13 currently three-year funded organisations being considered for continued funding. The 32 applications alone requested £822,035 for 2006/07. The recommendation process has assumed a base budget for both one year and three-year grants of £851,491.

- 1.4 From the 2004/05 approval round, 11 organisations were approved for three-year funding starting from April 2004. During the 2005/06 approval round, two further organisations were approved for three-year funding starting April 2005. We have carried out the mid-term review on the 11 organisations that started their three-year grant in 2004 and verifications of all procedures being in place on the two organisations that started in 2005. Appraisal Panels have recommended that all 13 organisations are fit for purpose and that they continue to receive CGB funding.
- 1.5 We have implemented a number of developments and changes to the CGB process this year. This included much wider publicity of the grant, building on the publicity of the previous year. From this, we had 20 new applicants applying to CGB.
- 1.6 In the Cabinet report for 2005/06 grants, four organisations were subject to conditions to be met in the first six months of the year. Failure to have met this would have resulted in loss of half of the remaining grant. These organisations were: Derby Asian Women's Training, Derby Women's Centre, the Play and Recycling Centre; and Derby Shopmobility. All four organisations met the conditions within the timescale.
- 1.7 Other organisations which were approved for funding had other conditions or follow up support. Progress on these was taken into account in this year's appraisal process.
- 1.8 Appraisal Panels met in October 2005 to consider the 32 applications and the current 13 three-year funded organisations. Following the previous year's appraisal process, a full review was carried out of the CGB process. Part of the review covered clarifying the criteria between CGB and other Council grants made by Social Services and Education. The review process overall led to significant improvements in criteria, the scoring and appraisal process and the timetable. It also led to wider publicity of the grant and agreement that one-year grants were for that period only and all applications were assessed on merit. All aspects of the review were discussed in the Compact Forum with the Voluntary Sector. In June 2005, Cabinet approved revised CGB criteria arising from the review.
- 1.9 Each application was scored throughout by the Appraisal Panel. Certain sections of the application required minimum scores to be reached in order to be recommended for CGB funding. The sections requiring a minimum score to be reached are:
 - proposed outcomes
 - project monitoring
 - management
 - financial management
 - equality in organisation.

The Legal Services Commission Quality Mark is a compulsory requirement for all information and advice giving organisations.

- 1.10 Following discussion with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services we are proposing not to fund any new organisations applying to the CGB.

1.11 Two organisations are recommended for three-year funding for 2006-2009:

- Derwent Stepping Stones
- SUPORT

Derwent Stepping Stones and SUPORT currently receive CGB funding on a one year basis.

1.12 The recommendations for one-year funding are:

- Alternative Activities
- Asian Advisory Service
- Austin Community Enterprise
- Derby Furniture Project
- Derby Shopmobility
- Derby West Indian Community Association
- Derby West Indian Association Credit Union
- Derby Women's Centre
- Derby Chinese Welfare Association
- Play and Recycling Centre.

1.13 We will continue to monitor the scoring process and the format of the application and appraisal forms in consultation with the voluntary sector prior to next year's application round.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Following the appraisal process three broad options were considered to balance the budget ...

- Reduce all organisations by a certain percentage to fit the available budget.
- Use total scores achieved for each organisation and fund those organisations who achieved above a certain total score.
- To continue to fund all currently funded organisations and not bring in any new applicants.

2.2 The third option is the recommended proposal. The proposal has the support of Council Cabinet Members and would leave an unallocated balance of £13,861 in the CGB to be retained as a contingency in 2006/07.

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Background papers:	CGB application forms and appraisal documents on file in the Area and Neighbourhood Unit
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Financial summary

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The recommendations in the report will be contained within the available CGB budget. Appendix 2 provides full financial details, based on the recommendation. Payment of agreed funding in 2007/08 and 2008/09 will be dependent on budgets being available, and on organisations demonstrating compliance with funding agreements.

Legal

2. Each organisation receiving a CGB grant will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Council. Continuation of three-year funding agreements will be conditional upon satisfactory reviews.

Personnel

3. The CGB is administered by the Voluntary Sector Team in the Area and Neighbourhood Unit of the Policy Directorate.

Equalities impact

4. All the CGB grants support equality and social inclusion target groups.

Corporate objectives and priorities

5. The proposals further the Council's objectives of providing **healthy, safe and independent communities**, and a **shared commitment to regenerating our communities**.