

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
22ND MARCH 2007

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY BODIES

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	
CORPORATE THEME:	Improving Corporacy & Performance
KEY PRIORITY:	Financial and Asset Management
STRATEGY:	Financial Strategy
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor John Champion
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Financial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Keith Bannister 2100 Stuart Edmonds 2123
APPENDIX 1	General Criteria for Determining Grant Applications
APPENDIX 2	Letter from Kidderminster Valentines
AN OPEN ITEM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To allocate resources to Voluntary Bodies for the period 2007/2008.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The General Criteria for determining Grant Applications be used as a basis for future grant applications. (See Appendix 1)

2.2 That cash grants be made for the period 2007/2008 at the same level as at 2004/2007 to the following voluntary organisations as set out below:-

	£
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	21,000
RELATE WORCESTERSHIRE	2,960
COMMUNITY ACTION WYRE FOREST	1,000
CASTLE ROAD DAY CENTRE (AGE CONCERN)	7,980
STOURPORT DAY CENTRE	<u>1,040</u>
	<u>33,980</u>

2.3 The above Organisations be informed that grants will be for one year only and that the Council will be inviting bids for grants in 2008-2009 from themselves and other local organisations.

2.4 A pump-priming grant of £250 be made to the Kidderminster Valentines.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The table below shows the Council's base budget for grants to Voluntary Bodies for 2007/2008.

	£	£
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		
- ANNUAL CASH GRANT	21,000	
- 5 YEAR AGREEMENT	10,800	
- STOURPORT & BEWDLEY	<u>5,000</u>	36,800
OTHER ANNUAL CASH GRANTS		12,980
PUMP PRIMING GRANTS		1,000
RENT SUPPORT		
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		6,730
CASTLE ROAD DAY CENTRE – under review		8,000
STOURPORT DAY CENTRE		7,500
DIAL-A-RIDE – SUPPORT TOWARDS GARAGING COSTS		<u>1,500</u>
		<u>74,510</u>

3.2 A copy of the Accounts of the Bodies currently receiving Grants is available in Financial Services.

3.3 The Council agreed as part of the 2003/2004 budget to increase the grant aid to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for a five year period by £2,500 p.a. (plus inflation) up to an increase of £10,000 p.a. in the year 2007/2008. In addition, as part of the 2006/2007 budget, the Council further increased the grant aid to the CAB by £5,000 p.a. for additional surgeries in Stourport and Bewdley. Both additional sums fall out at the end of 2007/2008.

3.4 The £1,000 of Pump Priming Grants was introduced as part of the 2005/06 budget process to enable the Cabinet to kick-start any suitable applications.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING RECEIVED IN THE PERIOD 2004/2007

4.1 The following organisations have unsuccessfully applied to Financial Services for grant funding during the period 2004/2007:-

Castle Road Day Centre (Age Concern) (application for an increase in their cash grant)

Parents Experiencing Adult Loss (P.E.A.L.)

Shelter, West Midlands Housing Aid Centre

Rock Village Hall

Bewdley Youth Café

Severn Area Rescue Association

Samaritans

- 4.2 Copies of applications are available in Financial Services.
- 4.3 An Application has also been received from Kidderminster Valentines for the production of their first CD. (See Appendix 2)
- 4.4 No doubt other organisations may have applied to other Divisions and Members direct.

5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Cabinet will need to consider the Council's Grant Allocation for 2007/2008. The Council's current policy is to allocate grants that are meaningful rather than spread the allocation too thinly. Clearly there are many more organisations that could benefit from our financial assistance, but the Council has only limited resources and therefore the current policy to allocate to a select number of organisations should continue for 2007/2008 but should be reviewed in 2008/2009 when other local organisations are invited to bid.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

See Appendices

CONSULTEES

CMT

APPENDICES

- 1. General Criteria for determining Grant Applications
- 2. Letter from Kidderminster Valentines.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Council will use the following criteria for determining grant applications:-

Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the Council and applicants should:-

- Be a not-for-profit organisation, with clearly stated aims and objectives. The organisation must submit its constitution and annual report and latest available accounts. The Council also encourages organisations to produce policy statements on equal opportunities, health and safety and environmental factors;
- Operate for the benefit of the residents of the District
- Contribute to Council's Service Themes and to Community Strategy Themes.

Council Service Themes	Community Strategy Themes
Managing the Local Environment Promoting Economic Prosperity Enabling Community Well-Being Enhancing Cultural Life	Improved Health and Well-Being A Better Environment Shared Prosperity Safer Communities Greater Learning and Participation

- Demonstrate proper conduct of its affairs, both general and financial, and that it has the adequate expertise to carry out the activities proposed. A business plan should be submitted;
- Demonstrate the level of user support and the need for Council support;
- Explain intended use of any grant awarded, and be prepared to provide indicators on how effective the grant is in achieving its aims during the grant-year;
- Show that every effort is being made to raise funds from other appropriate sources and that voluntary assistance is being maximised;
- Provide a service that fulfils a demonstrable need;
- Demonstrate that service(s) provided can be more appropriately carried out by the voluntary organisation than by the Council itself';

- Demonstrate that it provides an appropriate service that is complementary to and adds value to the services provided by the District Council and/or other voluntary organisations.

Financial Considerations

When determining the level of revenue grant to be recommended for acceptance, the District Council will consider the following:-

- The financial standing of the organisation;
- The likelihood of additional funding or support in kind to the organisation from external sources other than the Council (in which case Council funding would be very unlikely);
- The level of reserves, except where these are shown to be earmarked for a particular objective (e.g. new building, replacement minibus)
- Evidence of prudent reserves to meet salary costs and other contingencies that might arise from time to time. As a general rule, reserves exceeding 50% of a year's gross expenditure would need explanation.

Priority for Funding

Organisations:-

- Which meet the Council's community vision for Wyre Forest District, working with our local partners;
- Which can provide a service which would otherwise need to be performed by the Council as a statutory responsibility (the inference being that the voluntary organisation can provide a better quality and/or more cost effective service);
- Which provide an important service which enhances, supports or is in substitution of a Council service;
- Providing a support service to vulnerable groups and are unable to secure funding from any other source.