



Cabinet 19 January 2011

Recommendations from the Grant Working Party: 7 December 2010 (Feb11/04)

Cabinet Members:

Cllrs Robert Everitt and John Griffiths

Chairman of the Working Party:

Cllr Sarah Broughton

1. Applications for Project Funding: 2010/2011 (Report B360)

RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) *a grant of £4,000 be awarded to Great Barton Scout Group, as detailed in Appendix B to Report B360, towards the cost of renovating and upgrading their scout hut; and*
- (2) *a grant of £5,000 be awarded to 1st Horringer Scout Group, as detailed in Appendix C to Report B360, towards the cost of constructing a new eco-friendly scout hut in Horringer.*

Great Barton Scout Group had successfully completed Phase One of renovating its scout hut, but now wishes to embark on Phase Two, which will involve insulating the roof and two walls, replacing and rewiring heaters and lighting and refurbishing the toilets and kitchen.

1st Horringer Scout Group's existing scout hut is in poor condition, therefore it wishes to demolish the hut and remove a storage unit to build a new eco-friendly purpose built facility. The storage unit has only been granted temporary planning consent and it is likely that this will not be renewed. The Group aims to replace both the existing scout hut and storage unit with an environmentally sustainable single storey building, using 'straw bale' construction techniques.

2. Amendments to the Grants Policy (Report B362)

RECOMMENDED:- That, subject to the approval of full Council:-

- (1) *the amendments to the Grants Policy, as annotated in Appendix A to Report B362, be approved, as amended to incorporate the following additional changes:-*
 - (a) *Section 7 Table: under the Rural Area Community Initiatives heading, reference to '...or the Grant Working Party recommends to Cabinet' be deleted;*

- (b) *Section 9.2: the following sentence be amended to read, 'If there is not a majority in favour of awarding the grant, the application will be referred to the next available meeting of the Grant Working Party for determination ;*
 - (c) *Section 10.1: the terms of reference of the Grant Working Party be amended to read, 'To consider grant applications and recommend the level of grants payable to organisations to officers or the Cabinet, based on the policies agreed by Council and in accordance with the relevant delegations detailed in Section 7 of this Grants Policy ;*
 - (d) *Section 1.10 of Appendix A to the Policy: the following sentence be amended to read, 'Consultations that arise within ten working days of a scheduled Grant Working Party meeting will be considered and voted upon at the meeting and not via the email system';*
 - (e) *Section 1.13 of Appendix A to the Policy: this entire paragraph be deleted and subsequent paragraphs be renumbered accordingly; and*
- (2) *the Corporate Director for Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for grants, be authorised to make minor typographic, grammatical and/or factual changes.*

Following the withdrawal of awarding Arts Grants and Hall Hire Discount Grants, it is necessary to amend the Grants Policy to address these changes. This also presents an opportune time to insert and delete additional clauses to clarify and highlight the Council's current position.

The proposed amendments were annotated on the existing Grants Policy, attached as Appendix A to Report B362, which were supported by the Working Party. However, as delegation procedures had previously been highlighted by the Working Party during the discussion of Report B359, '*Rural Area Community Initiatives Fund: Application for Project Funding: 2010/2011*'; it was considered appropriate to refine the wording in the Grants Policy relating to the determination of grants awarded under the criteria of the Rural Area Community Initiatives Fund.

3. Grants to Voluntary Organisations: 2011/2012 (Report B363)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, subject to the budget setting process,

- (1) *the previously approved core funding commitments for 2011/2012, as detailed in Appendix A to Report B363, be honoured in full, but with the following caveat:-*

(a) *those organisations previously awarded funding commitments up to 2012/2013 be given 12 months' notice that their current grant will be reviewed and reconsidered when the process for determining core funding grant applications for the 2012/2013 financial year is undertaken;*

(2) *the following grants be awarded in 2011/2012:-*

	£
Total Community Centres Budget	25,920
Total 'In Bloom' Grant Budget	2,925
West Suffolk Cruse Bereavement Care	900
Haverhill Association of Voluntary Organisations	5,000

The Cabinet had previously approved two to five year funding agreements with the majority of these commitments commencing in the 2010/2011 financial year. The table below, as shown in Appendix A to Report B363, outlines the organisations that are due to receive a grant in 2011/2012 and the corresponding amounts which cumulatively totals £393,718:-

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	
Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre	£7,000	£7,000	£7,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Gatehouse Caring in West Suffolk	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Haverhill Foodbank	£3,750	£3,750	£3,750	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Haverhill Local History Group	£3,500	£3,500		2 years 2010/11 & 2011/12
Haverhill Volunteer Centre	£14,000	£14,000	£14,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Optua Advice & Advocacy	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Relate Norfolk & Suffolk	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
St Edmund & Waveney YMCA	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Three Counties Transport - 3CTs	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Victim Support	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Brecks Partnership	£11,654	£11,654		2 years 2010/11 & 2011/12
Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery	£36,300	£36,300		2 years 2010/11 & 2011/12
Dedham Vale AOB & Stour Valley Project	£15,256	£15,256	£15,256	3 years 2010/11, 2011/12 & 2012/13
Haverhill Town Council	£219,745	£208,758		5 year SLA only 2011/12 remains
Theatre Royal	£75,000	£75,000		2 years 2010/11 & 2011/12
TOTAL		£393,718		

In light of the Government's recent Comprehensive Spending Review and the implications of spending cuts within local councils, the overall approach has broadly been to recommend a reduction of ten percent in grants awarded to external organisations to achieve the level of savings required by the Council, as considered by the Policy Development Committee on 24 November 2010 (Report B313 refers). However, those grants previously approved for 2011/2012 as part of funding agreements and detailed in the table above, have been recommended by the Working Party to be honoured in full. But given the current financial situation regarding the savings to be made and with the Borough Council's elections being

held in 2011 which may affect how grants will be awarded in the future, the Working Party considered it prudent that grants previously approved for 2012/2013 should be reviewed and reconsidered when the process for determining core funding grants for the 2012/2013 financial year is undertaken.

With the anticipated transfer of Southgate Community Centre to the Southgate Community Partnership on 1 April 2011, the grant awarded to Council-owned Community Centres would reduce to £25,920 to cover the three remaining Centres in the Borough. This amount equates to meeting the rents totalling £16,650, which was repayable to the Borough Council and a reduction of ten percent for the cleaning, renewables and maintenance element of the grant, amounting to £9,270.

As only one application has been received for a grant to enter the 2011 'In Bloom' competition, the existing budget of £4,000 has been recommended to be reduced to £2,925 for the 2011/2012 financial year.

A grant of £1,000 was awarded in 2010/2011 to West Suffolk Cruse Bereavement Care; however, in order to meet the Council's requirements of awarding a ten percent reduction in the level of grant awarded to external organisations, this grant has been recommended to a reduced grant of £900.

The grant of £5,000 to Haverhill Association of Voluntary Organisations has been recommended to meet the cost of its annual rent and business rates payable to the Borough Council.

4. Grants to Anglia in Bloom Groups: 2011/2012 (Report B364)

The Cabinet is asked to note that consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Working Party on 8 March 2011 to enable the officers to obtain further information from the applicant. The Working Party was advised that when reconsidering this application it may recommend a grant of up to £2,925, should the recommended budget for this grant scheme be approved by full Council on 1 March 2011, as part of the budget setting process.

5. Applications for Core Funding Grants: 2011/2012 Citizens' Advice Bureaux in St Edmundsbury (Report B365)

RECOMMENDED:- That,

- (1) subject to the budget setting process and the anticipated merger of the two Bureaux takes place with effect from 1 April 2011, a combined core funding grant of £181,800, as outlined in Section 5.2 of Report B365, be awarded for 2011/2012 to the newly formed joint Bureaux for the provision of advice services within St Edmundsbury; and***
- (2) in the event that the Trustees are unable to effect the merger by 1 April 2011, individual grants of £80,000 be awarded to Bury St Edmunds and District Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) and £90,000 to Haverhill and District CAB for 2011/2012.***

There are two Citizens' Advice Bureaux (CABx) within St Edmundsbury, one located in Bury St Edmunds and the other in Haverhill. These CABx are currently individual charities each operated by a Board of Trustees. The objective of the Citizens' Advice Service is to provide free, confidential, impartial and independent advice to support local residents with a wide range of issues. In 2010/2011, Bury St Edmunds and District CAB received a grant of £95,500 and Haverhill and District CAB received £106,500.

During 2010, the Trustees of both CABx have worked with other local CABx to form the West Suffolk Citizens' Advice Bureau (WSCAB) which sits above the individual CABx in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Brandon and Mildenhall, Sudbury and Newmarket. It is anticipated that some savings will result from this federation in areas such as training and the development of resources. In addition to the WSCAB federation, Bury St Edmunds and District CAB and Haverhill and District CAB, which are two separate legal entities, plan to amalgamate with the Mildenhall and Brandon CAB. The target date for this full merger is the end of March 2011.

Although two separate applications have been received by the Borough Council and provided the anticipated merger of the two Bureaux takes place on 1 April 2011, it is proposed that the grant be paid as one amount. It would then be for the Trustees and Management Committee to allocate funds appropriately. As referred to under Item (2) of this report and to meet the Council's target savings from grants to external organisations, a ten percent reduction in the combined amount has been included in the recommendation. Defined procedures are to be stated in the new Service Level Agreement to ensure that the Borough Council funding is used to provide services within St Edmundsbury only and not within the other branches of the merged Bureaux.

At the meeting of the Working Party, Members considered that as an incentive to ensure the merger is completed by 1 April 2011, the second recommendation contained in Section 6.1 of Report B365 should be amended to reflect that the Bureaux will receive less amounts of £80,000 to the Bury St Edmunds and District CAB and £90,000 to the Haverhill and District CAB, should they remain operating individually at 1 April 2011. The Working Party also considered it appropriate to delete proposed recommendations (2)(b) and (c) contained in Report B365, as deletion of these would also provide further encouragement to the applicants to complete the merger as planned.

6. Application for Core Funding 2011/2012: Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited (Report B366)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, subject to the budget setting process, a grant of £45,000 be awarded to Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited for the 2011/2012 financial year.

The Victory Sports Ground is a high quality, multi-activity sports ground comprising two grass cricket wickets (one of County standard), an artificial croquet surface, two hard and two grass tennis courts and football pitches. It is the home facility of Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club, Victory Ground Tennis Club, Bury St Edmunds Croquet Club and hosts annually a nationally renowned junior tennis tournament.

In 2001, the management of the Victory Sports Ground was transferred to a new company, Victory Sports Ground (Bury St Edmunds) Limited (VSGL). At the time of transfer, the revenue cost to the Council was £96,000; however this grant has reduced over the years and in 2010/2011, the organisation was awarded £45,000 core funding. VSGL collects the rents from the clubs using the facilities and currently pays the Council £11,450 per annum in rent.

On 21 October 2009 (Report A255 refers) the Cabinet approved a joint project with VSGL, the adjacent independent South Lee School and Bury St Edmunds Cricket Club. In summary, the new facilities project proposes that the existing pavilion and changing rooms will be replaced by a new sports hall and pavilion.

The revenue costs of operating the new sports hall will be met by South Lee School. Officers have held regular discussions with representatives of VSGL regarding the revenue grant. It is proposed that the Council, in partnership with VSGL, seek as part of the wider project to reduce the Council's grant. Whilst the project, which will create greater revenue generation possibilities for the Victory Ground site in the future, it is proposed that the grant should be maintained at its current level for 2011/2012.

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