

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GRANT WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2013 at 5.00 pm in Room GFR12, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S O Broughton, French, Houlder, Redhead,
Mrs Rushen and Thorndyke

BY INVITATION: Councillor Everitt, Portfolio Holder for Communities

1. Substitutes

No substitutions were declared.

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs A D Rushen be elected Chairman of the Working Party.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor J Thorndyke be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Working Party.

4. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interests are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

7. Core Funding Applications: 2014/2015

The Working Party considered Report E192 (previously circulated) which sought approval for a number of applications received for core funding as part of the budget setting process for 2014/2015.

In line with the Grants Policy, each year the Council awarded core funding grants to a variety of organisations. The majority of the funding was allocated to organisations for a four year period from 2012/2013 (Report C252 referred), therefore as with 2013/2014 this had given limited opportunity for some new applicants to apply for core funding with up to £11,000 being available for allocation in 2014/2015. Report E192 provided a summary of the applications received for funding for 2014/2015, as follows:

- (a) MENTA;
- (b) Artheads;
- (c) Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS); and
- (d) Haverhill Local History Group.

Each application was firstly assessed in terms of whether it fell into a particular category to establish its eligibility for funding, as detailed in Section 4.2 of the report, or whether it could be referred to the four year (up to 2015/2016) £50,000 Community Grant scheme administered on behalf of the Borough Council by ONE Haverhill.

In addition, two applications, Open Road and Community Action Suffolk, were awarded funding of £2,500 and £18,000 respectively in 2013/2014 for the initial year, with funding for a further year being subject to review (Cabinet minute 101 – 13 February 2013 referred). The funding for these two organisations was currently built into the base budget so the £11,000 quoted above would increase if these sums were not awarded for 2014/2015. The officers had recommended that delegated authority be given to the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities to review the performance of these two organisations after a full year of operation to enable them to make the decision as to whether it was appropriate to release the second year of funding. The Working Party considered that as a discussion had been held earlier in the meeting regarding the possibility of another meeting needing to be arranged prior to budget setting for 2014/2015, it may wish to consider the recommendations directly following the outcome of the review rather than automatically providing delegated authority to the relevant officer and Portfolio Holder to make the decision. This resulted in an amendment being made to the recommendation.

Each of the other applications were considered in turn and following deliberation, the Working Party felt that the full amount of £1,500 applied for by SARS should be awarded as Members considered that whilst it was acknowledged that this was not a service area where the Council had responsibility, this charitable, voluntary organisation was an extremely valuable and worthwhile resource provided to the people of St Edmundsbury. This was therefore reflected in the recommendation to Cabinet.

A detailed discussion was also held on the application submitted by the Haverhill Local History Group. In 2012/2013 the Group had been given notice that funding would no longer be available and that it should apply to the Community Grant scheme administered by ONE Haverhill for future funding. Despite being given this advice in 2012/2013, an application for £2,250 had been submitted to the Borough Council to enable them to continue to operate out of its current premises at Haverhill Arts Centre. Consideration was given to a representation previously circulated by email to Members of the Working Party from the Clerk to Haverhill Town Council, which set out the Group's and ONE Haverhill's position; however the majority of Members concurred with the officers' recommendation that no award

should be made on the basis that the Group had previously been signposted to seek funding from ONE Haverhill.

The discussion then led to consideration of the existing Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme (RIGS). Members referred to the Grant Scoring Matrix which used to be circulated as part of the approval process for applications considered under the RIGS scheme by email. Members had found this to be a useful tool; however a suggestion was made for a simplified version of the matrix or a similar document be produced to provide Members with a clear understanding of whether sufficient eligibility criteria had been met together with enough background information to help determine the application. The application form itself may also be revised and simplified as considered appropriate. Drafts would be produced and circulated to Members by email for comment prior to finalising the documents.



RECOMMENDED:

That subject to the budget setting process for 2014/2015 and in accordance with the details provided in Sections 5 to 9 of Report E192:

- (1) unless another meeting of the Grant Working Party is convened sufficiently late in the financial year to allow Members to consider recommendations following the outcome of the review, delegated authority be given to the Head of Leisure Culture and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community, to review the performance of Open Road and Community Action Suffolk after a full year of operation and decide whether it is appropriate to release the second year of funding;***
- (2) MENTA be awarded £2,970 per year for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 to support the 'Go Menta – Create Your Future' project in St Edmundsbury;***
- (3) Artheads be awarded £2,500 for 2014/2015 from the Substance Misuse core funding;***
- (4) SARS be awarded £1,500 for 2014/2015; and***
- (5) no award be made to the Haverhill Local History Group but that, as previously advised, they focus future applications to the Community Grants funding administered by ONE Haverhill on behalf of St Edmundsbury Borough Council.***

RESOLVED:

That draft versions of the amended Grant Scoring Matrix (or equivalent) and application form produced under the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme be circulated by email to Members for comment prior to their finalisation.

8. Date of Future Meeting

The Working Party determined that a future meeting would be held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 to consider the 2015/2016 core funding applications; however, a further meeting may need to be arranged early in 2014 to consider further core funding applications prior to budget setting on 25 February 2014.

Communication to Members to this effect would be made accordingly in due course.

The meeting concluded 5.50 pm.

**MRS A D RUSHEN
CHAIRMAN**