



Grant Working Party 5 December 2013

Core Funding Applications (Dec 13/07)

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 In line with the Grants Policy, each year the council awards core funding grants to a variety of organisations. As Councillors will recall, the bulk of the funding was allocated to organisations for a 4-year period from 2011/12 (Report C252 refers). As with last year this has given limited opportunity for some new applicants to apply for Core Funding.
- 1.2 This report brings to the Working Party all the applications received for funding for 2014/15. If Members of Grant Working Party wish to have more detailed information about any of the applications please request this from officers **before** the meeting.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Subject to the budget setting process the Grant Working Party recommends to Cabinet:
 - 2.1.1 That delegated authority is give to the Head of Leisure Culture & 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.
 - 2.1.2 That MENTA is awarded £2,970 per year for 2014/15 and 2015/16 to support the 'Go Menta – Create Your Future' project in St Edmundsbury.
 - 2.1.3 That Artheads is awarded £2,500 for 2014/15 from the Substance Misuse core funding.
 - 2.1.4 That no award is made to SARS.
 - 2.1.5 That no award is 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.

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3. Corporate priorities

3.1 The recommendation(s) meet the following, as contained within the Corporate Plan:

- (a) Corporate Priority: '*Working together for Strong, Healthy and Diverse Communities*'; and
- (b) Vision 2025: St Edmundsbury will be a place: **V:He3** where local support networks for the whole community are on hand to provide advice on emotional and physical wellbeing

4. Key issues

4.1 Categories of grant applicants

4.2 In the last two years to assist the working party in considering applications and the contribution they make to achieving the council's responsibilities applicants have been divided into the following categories (although there are not applications in all categories on this occasion):

4.2.1 Those that make a direct contribution to Council service delivery;

4.2.2 Voluntary infrastructure organisations;

4.2.3 Countryside and In Bloom organisations;

4.2.4 Organisations which support Substance Misuse projects for which there is some modest ring-fenced funding; and

4.2.5 Organisations with general charitable objectives but which do not make any direct contribution to the service delivery of the Council.

4.3 In addition, following the establish for a £50,000 community grants scheme for Haverhill running for four years to 2015/16 some local grant applicants in the town have been referred to that funding scheme, which is being administered on behalf of St Edmundsbury by ONE Haverhill.

5. Funding available

5.1 **Core Funding** of up to £11,000 is available for allocation in 2014/15. This is made up of core funding previously unallocated, and allocations which were made but not claimed during 2013/14 owing to organisations ceasing to function.

- 5.2 Three new organisations have come forward requesting financial support totalling £5,220 for 2014/15 and details are given at paragraphs 6 to 9 in this report.
- 5.3 **Applications which require a review.** In 2013/14 two applications for Core Funding were received which Councillors recommended funding for an initial year, with a further year subject to a review. The funding for these two organisations is currently built into the base budget so the £11,000 quoted at 5.1 would increase if these sums were not awarded for 2014/15.
- 5.4 The organisations concerned are Open Road and Community Action Suffolk. Open Road was awarded £2,500 per annum to support delivery of recovery interventions in Haverhill. Community Action Suffolk is the new county-wide infrastructure organisation formed by the merger of 11 separate organisations. The organisation was awarded a total of £18,000 per annum, a reduction of £3,000 in revenue funding and a further reduction of £5,000 in in-kind support. The Working Party wished to be assured that there was not a reduction in services received by local voluntary and community organisations as a result of the merger.
- 5.5 As the Working Party meets in December it is not yet possible to carry out a full year review. To allow a full year of operation it is recommended that delegated authority is provided for the review to be completed.

6. **MENTA**

- 6.1 Menta is a not for profit organisation providing business advice in the West of Suffolk. It has applied for £2,970 a year for 3 years. The funding will support the 'Go Menta - Create Your Future' project which provides one to one advice and support for people wishing to go into business. Menta have experienced a significant increase in the number of people being referred to them by organisations such as Job Centre Plus, Papworth Trust, Mencap, West Suffolk College, LEAP Centres and the Citizen Advice Bureau. As a result there is currently a waiting list within St Edmundsbury of approximately 3 weeks.
- 6.2 The funding would enable an additional 18 days of one to one advice and support to be delivered each year, equating to an additional 90 people being supported per annum. This activity directly supports the Council priority of promoting growth and will help support local residents to make an active contribution to the local economy.
- 6.3 Officers recommend supporting this application. However as awarding three years of funding would take MENTA funding beyond 2015/16, when all other core funding applications will come up for review, the recommendation is that this funding should be awarded for two years. This approach would preserve the ability of the Council to revisit the level and method of allocating funding in line with both the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the policy framework in operation at that time.

7. **Substance Misuse grants**

- 7.1 **Artheads** have applied for £2,500 to assist with day to day running costs. Artheads is a facility which provides a safe, friendly, drug and alcohol free environment where people with substance misuse and mental health issues can

take part in art and music. The activities aim to involve the whole community in order to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions around addiction and mental health problems. The facility is housed in the basement of the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre giving those attending the opportunity to take advantage of the facilities there as well as those provided by Artheads. Providing support to those in recovery from substance misuse, or who experience mental health issues, is a far more cost effective way of addressing these issues than leaving people unsupported and in danger of returning to chaotic lifestyles which impact on council services such as community safety, housing and revenue and benefits. Officers recommend supporting this application.

8. Charities/community organisations not contributing directly to SEBC service delivery

8.1 **SARS** provides immediate medical care to those in need following an accident or other medical emergency. It covers Suffolk and its borders with neighbouring counties, providing specially trained volunteer doctors and paramedics who can offer assistance to the ambulance service at the scenes of serious medical incidents such as road traffic collisions or life threatening illnesses. The organisation have applied for £1,500 to help cover their core running costs, specifically to help cover the costs of supporting volunteers who respond within St Edmundsbury. Although a very valuable resource this is not a service area where the Council has responsibility, so the work does not contribute to the discharge of the Council's responsibilities. On this basis officers are therefore recommending that no funding is awarded.

9. Haverhill Local History Group

9.1 Historically the Council funded this group annually. However in 2012/13 they were given notice that funding would no longer be available and that they should apply to the Community Grants funding administered by ONE Haverhill for future funding.

9.2 For 2014/15 the Haverhill Local History Group has come back and applied for £2,250 to enable them to continue to operate out of their current premises at the Arts Centre whilst they investigate a longer-term solution for their sustainability. In view of the previous signposting to the ONE Haverhill administered Community Grants it is recommended that no award is made to the Haverhill Local History Group.

10. Monitoring

10.1 To ensure the council's grants are being used appropriately and benefit the local community, officers have requested 6 monthly monitoring reports are provided by organisations receiving a grant.

10.2 Report to Grant Working Party will be made on an exception basis and, to date, there are no exceptions to be reported. Officers will receive the next round of monitoring report covering the October 2013 to March 2014 period in April.

11. Other options considered

11.1 The Council currently has a policy of making core funding available to voluntary, community and not for profit groups so the decisions are on individual applications, not whether or not to continue to provide core funding.

12. Community impact

12.1 Any funds distributed would have a positive impact on the community as they support local voluntary, community and third sector activity within St Edmundsbury

13. Crime and disorder impact *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

13.1 As indicated at paragraph 7.1 is it considered that supporting the application from Artheads will help to prevent community safety issues.

14. Diversity and equality impact *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

14.1 Part of the funding criteria is that groups funded should have an equalities policy

15. Sustainability impact *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

15.1 No adverse impact anticipated.

16. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

16.1 Internal consultation only as this is a grant application process.

17. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

17.1 All the applications received can be accommodated within the current core funding allocation, subject to the budget allocation. Any unallocated funding becomes an in-year saving for the 2014/15 budget.

17.2 Both St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council are in the process of adopting a Families and Communities Strategy which will provide a new framework for the way the Councils engage with communities and deploy their limited funding to help communities become more self-reliant. St Edmundsbury's Grant Policy will need to be reviewed in the light of that strategy once it is adopted.

18. Risk/opportunity assessment (*potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives*)

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
That organisations funded are unable to provide the service detailed in the application so the benefit of those services is lost to the community	Medium	Funding agreements put in place and 6 monthly monitoring. Funding with held if the service is not delivered	Low

19. Legal and policy implications

19.1 The recommendations are in line with the St Edmundsbury Grant Policy.

20. Ward(s) affected

20.1 All

21. Background papers

21.1 Previous Grant Working Party papers and documentation from those applying for funding.