

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS

NOTES

14th January 2014, Members Training Room 11.30am

Attendance: Councillors Jackson, Campbell, Taylor, Cross and Rowson.

Sally Shaw, Head of Corporate Development, Engagement and Communications.

Rachel Stafford, Engagement and Intelligence Officer

Chris Kelly, Senior Democratic Services Adviser.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jackson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the North Shore Methodist Church application and left the room for the consideration of that application and Councillor Taylor declared personal and prejudicial interests in the North Shore Methodist Church application and in the Bridge project application and left the room for the consideration of those applications.

Panel Members were advised that under normal circumstances, an interest in any of the applications would be prejudicial. However, this was the last meeting of the Panel for the financial year and the amount of funding available for allocation would be sufficient to cover all of the applications received, should that be Members' recommendation. Therefore, Members could participate in the consideration of the applications for which they did not have an interest.

2. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Councillor Rowson was elected as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

The Panel was advised that there was a total of £29,611 funding available to be allocated for the award of small grants to voluntary, community and faith groups in Blackpool for the 2013-2014 financial year.

It was explained to the Panel that a number of small grants had already been awarded in two meetings held earlier in the Municipal year. This had resulted in there being a nominal figure of £14,800.36 to allocate in this round of funding.

Mrs Shaw advised that, in its last meeting, the Panel had recommended to allow those organisations that had applied for the last round of small grant funding, but had been initially rejected for not submitting adequate financial information in their initial application, another opportunity to submit a completed application form. As a result of this recommendation, a further seven applications had been completed for Members to consider.

4. CONSIDERATION OF SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Panel considered all applications individually, noting the amount of funding that had been applied for, what the funding would provide, from where remaining funds would be obtained, and the financial statements of applicants.

Bostonway Residents / Social Club

Mrs Shaw reported that the organisation had applied for £900 towards gardening and recreational equipment for residents to improve the garden facilities and social group activities.

The Panel noted that the original application had not included a financial statement or a health and safety statement. However, those items had now been provided.

Mrs Shaw advised the Panel that part of the application was to provide a £100 contribution towards a Christmas party. However, it was noted that grants could not be awarded retrospectively.

The Panel raised a number of questions regarding the application and requested that officers contact the organisation to determine whether the grant towards the Christmas party could be spent on an alternative activity, within the current financial year. On this basis, the Panel supported the application for the full amount in principle. However, should the organisation not have an alternative activity source for the Christmas party funding, then £100 should be deducted from amount awarded.

The Panel recommended that Bostonway Residents / Social Club be awarded funding for £900, subject to condition described above.

The Friends of Stanley Park and Salisbury Woodland

It was reported to the Panel that the organisation had applied for £3,000 funding in order to purchase 'animal' litter bins for both the children's playground and the adjoining adventure playground.

Mrs Shaw advised that the original application had been missing financial information, which had now been provided.

The Panel recommended that the Friends of Stanley Park and Salisbury Woodland be awarded funding for £3,000 for the project.

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Mental Health Forum

The Panel was advised that the organisation had applied for £500, which would contribute towards the running costs of the Forum for the year.

The Panel discussed whether to award the grant on a pro rata basis, as the guidelines did not allow funding to be issued retrospectively and at the time of the Panel's meeting there was not a full year left to fund.

The Panel and requested that officers contact the organisation to determine whether the grant could be spent on an alternative activity, within the current financial year. On this basis, the Panel supported the application for the full amount it in principle. However, should the organisation not have an alternative project for the funding, then the grant should be awarded on a pro rata basis.

The Panel recommended that Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Mental Health Forum be awarded funding for £500, subject to condition described above.

Community Intervention Team CIC

Mrs Shaw reported that the application had been received for £1,430 to provide training, education and skill development to people who are carer's of people with mental health needs living in Blackpool.

Mrs Shaw advised the Panel that one of the courses (Group One) had already taken place between 22nd October and 26th November 2014 and reminded Members that the guidelines did not allow funding to be issued retrospectively.

The Panel and requested that officers contact the organisation to determine whether the grant could be spent on an alternative activity, within the current financial year. On this basis, the Panel supported the application for the full amount it in principle. However, should the organisation not have an alternative project for the funding, then the grant should be awarded, with the costs of the Group One training course deducted.

The Panel recommended that Blackpool Community Intervention Team CIC be awarded funding for £1,430, subject to condition described above.

The Friends of Highfield Road Park

The Panel was advised that the organisation had applied for £4,999 to contribute towards purchasing and installing three pieces of play equipment on the park.

The Panel raised a number of questions regarding the application and supported the objectives of the organisation, provided the other sources of funding could also be secured during this financial year.

The Panel recommended that The Friends of Highfield Road Park be awarded funding for £4,999.

Note –Councillor Taylor, having declared personal and prejudicial interests in the North Shore Methodist Church application and in the Bridge project application, left the room at this stage, whilst those applications were considered.

The Bridge Project

Mrs Shaw explained to the Panel that the organisation had applied for a small grant of £1,600 to provide education programmes for, and work with, homeless and vulnerable people in assisting them to overcome addictions, mental health problems and improve their general wellbeing.

Mrs Shaw advised that the original application had been missing financial information, which had now been provided.

The Panel raised a number of questions regarding the application and supported the objectives of the organisation.

The Panel recommended that The Bridge Project be awarded funding £1,600.

Note –Councillor Jackson, having declared a personal and prejudicial interests in the North Shore Methodist Church application, left the room at this stage, whilst the application was considered.

North Shore Methodist Church

Mrs Shaw explained to the Panel that the organisation had applied for a small grant of £1,620 to replace 60 existing chairs, which had become very stained and damaged as a result of on-going work with the disadvantaged and vulnerable clients who use the organisation's facilities.

The Panel raised a number of questions regarding the application and supported the objectives of the organisation.

The Panel recommended that North Shore Methodist Church be awarded funding £1,620.

The Panel also considered the remaining, surplus funds from the 2013/2014 allocation for small grants and **recommended that any remaining, surplus funds be returned to the General Fund Revenue Budget / Contingencies.**

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm.