

SUBJECT:	2007/08 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
DATE OF DECISION:	19 MARCH 2007
REPORT VERSION No:	8

FORWARD PLAN No: LP01973**KEY DECISION?** YES**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not applicable

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

All

SUMMARY

The council makes a significant contribution to the development and delivery of voluntary sector activities and services through its annual grant aid programme, totalling £2,147,020 in 2007/08. This includes small voluntary groups and projects such as Southampton Action for Access, Staying Put, Mount Pleasant Media Workshop as well as citywide services such as Shopmobility, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Southampton Advice and Representation and arts provision such as Art Asia and the Nuffield Theatre.

The council has an established system for managing grant aid to the voluntary sector with a corporate application process as well as standard criteria and conditions of grant aid (attached Appendix 1 details the Standard Criteria). All grant applications have been assessed against these criteria and conditions, the council's five key priorities, and service related priorities.

For each Portfolio, the relevant Cabinet Member, in consultation with the relevant Policy Co-ordinator, has considered relevant grant applications and recommendations have been made that reflect the 2007/08 grants budget, as well as Portfolio priorities. In order to apply a consistent approach across all Portfolios, 2 % inflationary increases have been recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having considered the Community Strategy, particularly whereby grants are authorised pursuant to S.2 Local Government Act 2000 in pursuance of the Council's key priorities, the Cabinet is requested:

- (i) To approve the principle that a 2% inflationary grant award be made to voluntary organisations in 2007/08 and that this will be applied consistently across all Portfolios with the exception of the grant award to Community Playlink and Weston Adventure Playground for reasons detailed in the report;
- (ii) To note that there are no resources to fund any new organisations in 2007/08;

- (iii) To approve the detailed grant recommendations set out in the following attached Schedules:
- Schedule 1: Grant recommendations for Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio – CHC Directorate (HCN –CHC);
 - Schedule 2: Grant recommendations for Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio – Neighbourhoods Directorate (HCN – N);
 - Schedule 3: Grant recommendations for Leisure, Culture and Tourism (LC&T);
 - Schedule 4: Grant recommendations for Children’s Services and Learning (CS&L);
 - Schedule 5: Grant recommendations for Environment and Transport (E&T);
- (iv) To use the New Initiatives Fund of £61,900 within the Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio (CHC Directorate) Grants to Voluntary Organisations Budget, to continue to help sustain key Anti-Poverty services (Basics Bank, Dorcas and Removals) in 2007/08 through grant aid of £45,000 to SCRATCH and to contribute, from the balance, up to £15,000 as additional grant aid to the Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) and £1,900 to Relate (Relationship Counselling Service), for additional accommodation costs following the recent Health and Safety audit;
- (v) To approve the following delegations (in addition to the above) to allocate reserve budgets throughout the year as detailed below:
- HCN - CHC Community Chest Scheme to the Head of Communities and Regeneration;
 - HCN - CHC Anti-Poverty Reserve to the Head of Communities and Regeneration;
 - HCN - CHC New Initiatives Fund allocation to the CAB, up to £15,000 for additional accommodation costs, to the Head of Communities and Regeneration;
 - HCN - N Community Centres Support Reserve to the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods;
 - CS&L Special Needs Play schemes to the CS&L Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator;
 - CS&L Youth Service Reserve to the CS&L Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator;
 - HCN - N Community Environment Projects to the E&T Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator;
 - HCN - N Trees for Life to the E&T Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator;
 - HCN - N Tree Preservation Order Grants to the E&T Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator;
 - E&T Unallocated budget to the E&T Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator;

- H&SC Social Development Fund to the Health and Social Care Policy Co-ordinator;
- LC&T General Reserve Budget of £2,100 to the Head of Leisure, Culture and Tourism.

(vi) To approve:

- The transfer of the Wheatsheaf Trust grant and the related budget of £73,100 from the Children's Services and Learning Portfolio to the Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio (Communities, Health and Care Directorate) in reflection of the priorities they deliver for this Portfolio.
- The one-off transfer of £1,680 from the unallocated portion (the Sports Reserve) of the Sports Development budget within Leisure and Culture Portfolio to the Community Chest Scheme within Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio (CHC Directorate) and that this sum be prioritised for Sports use only.

(vii) To approve delegated authority to the Head of Communities and Regeneration to progress options for resolving the immediate accommodation problems for the CAB and Relate and to bring forward recommendations for longer term options, with financial implications, to a future meeting of the Cabinet or Council, as appropriate.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The council recognises the immense contribution of the voluntary sector to the City and its citizens. This is supported by the council in many ways including a significant financial contribution through grant aid, approved on an annual basis in March.

BACKGROUND

2. At its budget and council tax-setting meeting on 14th February 2007, the council agreed Portfolio budgets, which includes a 2% inflationary increase in grants budgets.
3. As in previous years, a corporate application procedure has been followed. Many organisations receive core funding which includes salary costs and are not able to build up large unrestricted reserves to bridge any funding gaps. Therefore, Member approval for annual grant awards is sought in March so that voluntary organisations can be informed of the outcome as early as possible to enable them to budget for the new financial year.
4. In recent years, budgets have been largely committed to existing projects and in an effort to encourage new applications that meet the council's priorities, the New Initiatives Fund was established in 2004/05. This fund was used in 2004/05 and 2005/06 to support projects that contribute to the implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy and Action Plan. Following a review of available ASB funding sources, and the difficulties faced in sustaining critical anti-poverty services in the city provided through the Basics Bank, Dorcas and Removals projects, the Cabinet agreed in March 2006 to use the New Initiatives Fund to sustain these anti-poverty projects in 2006/07. It is recommended that this Fund is used in 2007/08 to continue to support these anti-poverty services

and also make a contribution to CAB and Relate towards their additional accommodation costs as a result of their recent Health and Safety audit.

5. Applications for grant aid are invited each year from community and voluntary sector organisations in the City. Application forms for 2007/08 were sent to:
 - Organisations currently in receipt of grants from the council,
 - Other organisations that expressed a wish to be considered in 2007/08.
6. In the vast majority of cases, applications received were from established organisations that have been receiving grant awards for successive years.
7. Organisations are required to provide detailed information in support of their applications and copies of the documents for any individual organisation are available, on request, from the Communities and Regeneration Division or the Grants Officers supporting different Portfolios (contact details are in the attached Schedules).

CONSULTATION

8. In consulting with grant applicants, the council has been mindful of the case law established through Haringey Council's judicial review in 2000 and more recently, the judgement in relation to Leicester City Council. Officers have ensured that where organisations are the subject of recommendations for grant reductions, they have been informed about the nature, amount and basis of the reductions and given opportunities to argue their case and challenge the Council's basis for decision-making. This notification needs to be formally undertaken after the council's budget setting meeting so that communication to the voluntary sector on the possibility of grant reductions is based on the actual decision taken by Council. Voluntary organisations have therefore been informed of the dates and invited to attend the Cabinet consultation and decision making meetings to enable them to make any representations on the proposals outlined in this report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. The Council, at its budget setting meeting on 14 February 2007, agreed a budget, which included a 2% inflationary increase. In order to ensure the Council informed grant applicants of its decisions in March 2007 and that agreed recommendations within the 2007/08 grants budgets were consistent across all Portfolios, the following options were considered:
 - Each Portfolio to decide whether or not to award an inflationary increase
 - Portfolios to make recommendations which may not be clearly linked to the council's top priorities
 - Portfolios to make grants decisions in the new financial year.
10. These options were rejected for the following reasons:
 - Portfolios making independent decisions on inflationary increases could result in inconsistencies
 - Portfolios which do not link their recommendations to the council's key priorities may agree grant aid to lesser priority projects/services
 - Grant aided organisations need to be informed in March 2007 to enable them to take necessary action in their financial and resource planning for the next year. This timescale also helps the council to ensure grant payments are

made in time for organisations to pay their employees in April 2007.

DETAIL

11. All grant applications to Portfolios have been assessed against:
 - The council's standard criteria and conditions for grant aid.
 - Southampton City Council's five key priorities of:
 - Tackling deprivation and inequalities
 - Promoting life long learning for all people
 - Improving community safety and reducing crime and disorder
 - Improving the street scene and the environment
 - Promoting independent living
 - Service related priorities for each Portfolio
 - Strategic priorities detailed in the relevant plans and strategies in the Policy Framework.
12. Grant applications from organisations reflect different level of inflationary increases on their 2006/07 grant awards. However to ensure a consistent corporate approach to all grant aided organisations an inflationary increase of 2% on the 2006/07 level of grants across all Portfolios has been applied.
13. There are no resources to fund any new organisations in 2007/08.
14. The basis of recommendations for individual Portfolios is set out in the attached Schedules.

The New Initiatives Fund

15. The Cabinet approved the establishment of a corporate New Initiatives Fund in 2004/05 to accommodate new community and voluntary sector initiatives. In the first 2 years this fund was used to support the implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Action Plan. It is now recommended that the New Initiatives Fund of £61,900 is used again in 2007/08 to continue to help sustain key Anti-Poverty services (Basics Bank, Dorcas and Removals) in 2007/08 through grant aid of £45,000 to SCRATCH and to contribute from the balance, up to £15,000 as additional grant aid to the CAB and £1,900 to Relate, for additional accommodation costs following the recent Health and Safety audit.

Youth Services Reserve Budget Within the Children's Services and Learning Portfolio

16. The CS&L Portfolio, Youth Services grants budget of £5,330, for the Southampton Youth Parliament Grants Programme Funding. This is used towards the maintenance of the Youth Service's 'Community Chest' fund for local voluntary and community groups whose work focuses on meeting the needs of young people. Awards under this scheme are allocated under delegated officer powers following a consultation process with the Southampton Youth Parliament over potential recipients. The list of recommendations includes a request for authority to finalise the process and to approve awards to be delegated to the CS&L Portfolio Policy Co-ordinator.

New Performing Arts Grant Within the LCT Portfolio

17. The Cabinet approved, at its meeting on 20th March 2006, delegated powers for the Solicitor to the Council and the Head of Finance in consultation with the Head of Leisure and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism to agree the LC&T grant award to the new Performing Arts Organisation (PAO), once the company is legally constituted. Funds to a maximum of £141,600 were identified in 2006/07 within the Arts Development budget. This award was made following the submission of the Business Plan submitted as part of the Arts Lottery bid, and in partnership with funding from Arts Council England South East. However, as a result of the delays in the SNAC (Southampton New Arts Centre) project, no award has yet been made to a PAO. A procurement exercise has been initiated to invite proposals from organisations that may carry out the PAO function; the evaluation of these tenders is underway. Responders have been asked to identify the level of service that could be delivered for nil cost and for differing levels of expenditure.
18. The budget proposals agreed by council on 14th February 2007 contain a reduction of £112,000 on performing arts grants in 2007/08 and 2008/09, to be reinstated in 2009/2010. This money was set aside to support performing arts within the city prior to the opening of the SNAC facility. However, several partners have withdrawn funding during this interim period and therefore this budget can be reduced for now, but will be reinstated in future years to help support the SNAC project.

Grants to play organisations

19. There have been two organisations (Community Playlink and Weston Adventure Playground) that have been recommended for an above inflationary increase. Both are funded through the Play Services Grants budgets. Community Playlink has taken on the Toy Library service from SCC and Weston Adventure Playground has sought extra funding for increased running costs. In order to accommodate this increase without adversely affecting grants awards to other organisations, a budget transfer of £14,847 from the Play Services budget is being made. This reflects an efficiency savings within Play Services which is being used to support provision of key services by the voluntary sector.
20. Higher than inflation increase for Community Playlink (CPL) is due to the transfer of Council managed Toy Library service (located at Startpoint Sholing & Eastpoint). This services is now to be delivered by CPL as part of joint commissioning of CPL services through Play & Children's Centres services that will result in more effective & better value city wide toy library & parent & toddler services.
21. Higher than inflation increase for Weston Adventure Playground (WAP) is due to recurring additional new building running costs (insurance & utilities).
22. All increases within the Play Services portfolio budget 07/08 guide this will be achieved through combination of efficiency savings and re-allocation of resources according to priorities and need.

Anti-Poverty Services

23. The Cabinet approved additional funding in 2006/07 for the continuation of 3 Anti-Poverty services in the city, which provide critical support to the most vulnerable people in the city. These services area:
- Basics Bank – provision of emergency food and clothing;
 - Dorcas – provision of essential furniture; and
 - Removals – free removal service for people being re-housed rapidly as a result of harassment or domestic violence.
24. These services are provided by SCRATCH, which was established in 1999, and is now one of the largest voluntary sector organisations in Southampton. SCRATCH has a track record of delivering value for money services that provide direct and measurable improvement outcomes for Southampton’s most vulnerable citizens. Its services address the consequences of a spectrum of poverty issues for individuals but also benefit the wider community e.g. links to recycling and reduced land fill, support to volunteers, training opportunities/work experience, community repaint etc. The most significant ‘referring agencies’ for Dorcas and Basics Bank include the City Council, especially Health and Social Care and Housing services. The Advice Centres and Housing Associations are also key referral points.
25. In 2005/06 it became apparent that the long term, sustainable financial stability of the Basics Bank, Dorcas and the Removals projects needed serious consideration. The Cabinet approved an initial one-year award for 2006/07 to secure these key Anti-Poverty services subject to specific conditions, primarily:
- Assessment of long term sustainability options
 - Implementation of a revised Business Plan and Fundraising strategy within agreed timescales
 - Assessment of performance
 - Specific Service Level Agreement on referrals
- The progress against these conditions is detailed below.
26. Assessment of long term sustainability options
SCRATCH has made some positive changes towards long-term sustainability by
- Establishing a Funding Strategy
 - Looking at a range of ways to generate a more stable income base (increasing fund raising, charges to referral agencies and income generation through social enterprise, mainly through re-cycling)
- However, some income generation expectations are not being met (e.g. the Furniture Shop in Thornhill) and there is evidence that introducing charges has had an adverse impact on referrals. Although SCRATCH continues to pursue multiple and short-term funding streams, the concern remains that their income and expenditure continues to be precariously linked.
27. Implementation of a revised Business Plan and Fundraising Strategy, within agreed timescales
A business plan and fundraising strategy have been produced and the Board will review the effectiveness of their implementation.

28. Assessment of performance

SCRATCH continue to provide essential anti-poverty services and may be considered to be the dominant provider of services which meet some of the most basic needs of disadvantaged people in the city. Customer and agency feedback is very positive. Measures have been introduced to improve the level and detail of information passed to the Board to enable effective decision-making.

29. Specific Service Level Agreement on referrals

The council has reached a Service Level Agreement on referrals with SCRATCH. As a result, the council's grant will cover a quota of services for the council (52 removals, 200 furniture deliveries and 300 Basic Bank vouchers per year). This arrangement is working reasonably well and will be reviewed annually. All referral agencies are now charged for services.

30. In conclusion, there is evidence that SCRATCH has made progress against each of the council's conditions for funding. However, the sustainability of SCRATCH in terms of the stability of future funding (even with the council's funding) and outgoings (based on current supply and demand) is arguably still precarious. The balance of protecting the council's investment (funding) and ensuring the vital services provided by SCRATCH continue suggests that the council should continue the additional funding for a further year, subject to on-going support and monitoring of the same funding conditions as last year. The council should seek evidence in particular, in 2007/08 of a more stable funding position through the continued delivery of the Fundraising Strategy and improved business management.

31. However, in view of pressures on the Voluntary Sector Grants Budget it is recommended that the grant support from the New Initiatives Fund to SCRATCH is reduced to £45,000 to enable the council to contribute towards the urgent and additional accommodation costs of the CAB and Relate (see below). It will be important to work with SCRATCH to explore the impact of charges on meeting the needs of customers.

Citizens Advice Bureau and Relate

32. Members are aware that the CAB has an accommodation shortage that has reached a critical point. Several options have been considered and despite significant efforts, the front-running options to resolve the accommodation issues have not had successful outcomes to date. The options included shared premises with other voluntary sector organisations. The alternative option of renting commercial premises appears to be prohibitively costly. It is important to note that due to effective management, the CAB is successfully re-establishing its reserves. However, they would never be sufficient to afford the CAB to commercially rent or develop a new building.

33. A Health and Safety report, received on 30/01/07, has confirmed serious fire risk and overcrowding issues at Kings Park Road for both CAB and Relate and that these need to be addressed immediately. This report makes it clear that if the Health and Safety issues are not resolved, the net effect on current and potential clients will have a damaging impact. Discussions with Relate are due to be held on 5th March 2007, which is the earliest date convenient to the representatives of Relate.

34. Discussions with representatives of the CAB, who initiated the Health and Safety audit, have resulted in agreeing immediate and longer term solutions. The immediate solution will be to:
- Relocate a member of staff to be based at the Neighbourhood Advice Centre at Ropewalk and to ensure there is access to Broadband
 - Relocate the office base for the Debt Advisory team to another location or to negotiate with Relate the sole use of the joint training room at the current premises at Kings Park Road.

Officers are currently pursuing these actions and it is proposed that the consequent additional costs to the CAB in 2007/08 will be met through an additional grant of up to £15,000 from the New Initiatives Fund.

35. The CAB representatives have indicated that in the longer term, they wish to remain at their current premises provided they can be the sole occupier of the building and make the necessary physical changes to accommodate their needs. The CAB has to seek technical advice on the nature and cost of such changes. The council owns the building and therefore the potential costs of such works would then be presented to a future meeting of the Council or Cabinet for consideration and approval as it would require a one off capital investment.
36. In order to deliver this option, the council would need to facilitate moving Relate out of the premises currently shared with CAB to release the additional space. This option is in principle agreeable to Relate but would be subject to finding suitable accommodation for them. However, any move by Relate will inevitably result in additional rent and this would be met through a small contribution from the New Initiatives Fund, complemented by a contribution from the Anti-Poverty Reserve if necessary.
37. The council will need to consider the cost implications for Relate which include one off assistance to Relate for removals and associated costs and the consideration of additional revenue costs of relocating to other premises. In 2007/08, it is proposed it use the Anti-Poverty Reserve to fund this.
38. In order to progress the above satisfactorily and support both the CAB and Relate to comply with their legal obligations and improve their accommodation, officers will need to actively explore the following:
- Assess the most cost effective option for re-configuring use of existing space to create increased office space and safer working environment for the CAB.
 - Assess the costs implications for the council to meet any landlord obligations with respect to Health and Safety.
 - Provide pro-active support to Relate to find suitable alternative accommodation and if successful, seek legal advice on the termination of the joint lease (to CAB and Relate) for Kings Park Road and the issuing of a new lease to the CAB for the whole building.
 - This will increase the revenue costs for the CAB by approximately £10,000 - £15,000 and will be met from the New Initiatives Fund.
 - To achieve this, it will be necessary for Relate to have the first call on the Anti- Poverty Reserve in 2007/08 and for the council to consider, in the next budget process, the ongoing revenue implications from 2008/09.

39. It is therefore recommended that the Head of Communities and Regeneration has delegated authority to allocate up to £15,000 from the HCN New Initiatives Fund to CAB for additional accommodation costs.

Age Concern

40. Historically the council has never properly considered core funding for Age Concern as until the council became unitary its limited presence in the city was funded by the county. With the demographic profile reflecting an increasingly ageing population and the need to support voluntary sector activity in this area, it is considered appropriate to raise the issues concerning Age Concern in this grants report. Following a decision some years back, the grant to fund Age Concern services was changed to a contract, thereby limiting the council's ability to extend proper core funding support and only 'purchasing' their services. Given the gap between needs and services to older people (e.g. recent crisis with the 3rd Age Centre) and the implementation of the Later Years Strategy, it is important in the long term for the council to consider how it can provide a sustainable funding base for Age Concern.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

41. There are no specific recommendations relating to capital budgets. A further report will be presented at a later date relating to the capital costs of the accommodation needs of CAB and Relate.

Revenue

42. The proposals in this report for the allocation of grants budgets are within the approved Portfolio budget envelopes agreed by Council on 14th February 2007. A summary detailing total grant aid to the voluntary sector from each Portfolio is attached at Appendix 3.
43. Changes in the Portfolios within the council have resulted in the following virements:
- E & T Reserves for Community Environmental projects, Trees for Life programme and Tree Preservation Orders to be transferred to the Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio (Neighbourhoods Directorate) but the delegated authority remains unchanged.

The following virements are also proposed:

- The transfer of the Wheatsheaf Trust grant and the related budget of £73,100 from the Children's Services and Learning Portfolio to the Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio (Communities, Health and Care Directorate) in reflection of the priorities they deliver for this Portfolio.
- The one-off transfer of £1,680 from the unallocated portion (the Sports Reserve) of the Sports Development budget within Leisure and Culture Portfolio to the Community Chest Scheme within Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio (CHC Directorate) and that this sum be prioritised for Sports use only.

Property

44. There are no specific property implications.

Other

45. There are no other implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

46. The legal powers under which grants are made are listed in Appendix 2, and details of legal powers for grant recommendations for each organisation are listed in the Schedules.
47. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 ("the power of well-being") gives the council a general grant making power. Section 2 states that the council may do anything for the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of its area. The power explicitly permits the incurring of expenditure and the giving of financial assistance to any person, including the giving of grants and loans. The power of well-being is a power of first resort and may be used even where another power exists to do the same thing. The power of well-being is subject to any express restrictions made in any other legislation and may not be used to circumvent restrictions.
48. The Southampton Partnership has adopted a Community Strategy. In considering the proposals in this report and how they relate to improving the economic, environmental and social well being of the area, regard has been had to the aims and objectives of the Community Strategy as evidenced in the attached schedules.

Other Legal Implications:

49. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

50. The recommendations for each Portfolio relate to the relevant policy framework plans and the services provided by the grant-aided organisations will assist the council in meeting the overall aims of its policy framework including the objectives set out in the Community Strategy and Medium Term Plan.
51. As part of the council's work to achieve Equality Standard Level 3, an impact assessment was conducted on the grants process and as a result it was identified that a Grants Guidance should be produced. This has now been achieved.

CONCLUSION

52. In conclusion, the annual grants round provides the council with the opportunity to consider the work of the voluntary sector and the excellent contribution the sector makes to the life of the City. In considering grant applications, the council is also able to support projects which will make a real difference to the quality of life of citizens and which meet the Council's 5 key priorities.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Standard Criteria for Grant Aid
2.	List of Legal Powers
3.	Summary of Portfolio Grant Awards

Grant Schedules

1.	Grant recommendations for the Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio – CHC Directorate (HCN –CHC)
2.	Grant recommendations for the Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio – Neighbourhoods Directorate (HCN – N)
3.	Grant recommendations for the Leisure, Culture and Tourism Portfolio
4.	Grant recommendations for the Children’s Services and Learning Portfolio
5.	Grant recommendations for the Environment and Transport Portfolio

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None.
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	Corporate Grant Criteria and Conditions	
2.	Completed Application Forms	

Background documents available for inspection at Inclusion Section, Frobisher House, 4th Floor

REPORT OF: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

AUTHOR: Name: Suki Sitaram Tel: 023 8083 2060

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File Name: 2007/08 Grants to Voluntary Organisations

STANDARD CRITERIA FOR GRANT AID

Southampton City Council recognises the value and contribution of the city's diverse, independent and dynamic Voluntary Sector. The council wishes to support as much voluntary activity as possible within its budget limits. To work within its budget the portfolio must prioritise those areas of voluntary activity that it wishes to support. The following general criteria are provided to help groups decide whether they fall within the council's priority areas. You should also consider individual portfolio's criteria when making an application.

Applications will normally only be considered from groups and organisations:

- ⇒ Whose activities are of direct benefit to the residents of Southampton. (Groups whose activities extend beyond the boundaries of the City or who provide service to people who are not resident in Southampton will also be expected to seek contributions from funding sources in those areas that benefit from their work).
- ⇒ That are properly constituted groups and organisations that can demonstrate that their practices and structures are representative of all relevant interests and are clearly accountable to users, beneficiaries and members
- ⇒ That can demonstrate the proper conduct of their officers both general and financial, and that they keep proper books of account together with full written records indicating how any grant monies are used
- ⇒ That can demonstrate their work is in line with Southampton City Council's Social Cohesion objectives. All applicants will be expected to take account of these needs in their activities
- ⇒ That, where appropriate, will agree to council nominee(s) on its managing body in an advisory status
- ⇒ Where appropriate national or regional organisations can demonstrate that there is a specific benefit to Southampton which is not being offered by a local organisation

Applications will not normally be considered:

- ⇒ Towards religious activities
- ⇒ For work or events that have already taken place or for equipment that has already been purchased or building works which have been completed
- ⇒ For core funding from groups and organisations whose activities fall within the responsibility of another public body e.g. Health Authority. However, contributions to jointly funded projects may be considered
- ⇒ From organisations with sufficient free reserves to cover 12 months running costs. (Free reserves are funds controlled by the organisation and do not include restricted funds provided for a certain purpose)
- ⇒ Towards vehicles unless they are part of a community transport scheme or mobile resource centre. Applications will only be considered for individual organisations if they cannot access community or shared transport. Applicants will need to demonstrate that any vehicle funded by Southampton City Council will be properly maintained and insured and used often and regularly

As a general rule the council will not fund:

- Individuals
 - Trips
 - Holidays and expeditions

LIST OF LEGAL POWERS UNDER WHICH RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE

- A. **Section 19, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976**
“Recreational Facilities”
- B. **Section 145, Local Government Act 1972**
“Provision of Entertainments”
- C. **Section 144, Local Government Act 1972**
“Power to encourage visitors and provide conference and other facilities”
- D. **Section 142, Local Government Act 1972**
“Provision of information, etc, relating to matters affecting local government”
- E. **Section 508 (2), Education Act 1996**
“Functions in respect of facilities for recreation and social and physical training.
- F. **Sections 13, 14, and 15, Education Act 1996**
“Grants facilitating the council’s general functions in respect of Primary, Secondary and Further Education and Sections 111, Local Government Act 1972”
- G. **Section 33, Local Government and Housing Act 1989**
“Promotion of economic development”
- H. **Section 89, National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**
“Planting of trees and derelict land”
- I. **Sections 179 and 180, Housing Act 1996**
“Duty of local housing authority to provide advisory services and assistance to voluntary organisations in respect of homelessness.”
- J. **Grants facilitating the Council’s Social Services Functions as listed in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970; and Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972**
- K. **Section 14, Public Libraries and Museum Act 1964**
“Contributions to expenses of museums and galleries”
- L. **Section 2, Local Government act 2000** – ‘Power to do anything likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the area’

SUMMARY OF PORTFOLIO GRANT AWARDS IN 2007/08

PORTFOLIO	BUDGET 2007/08 £
Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio – CHC Directorate	£1,053,400
Housing, Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio – Neighbourhoods Directorate General Fund Revenue Account Grants Budget Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget	 186,129 13,610
Leisure, Culture and Tourism	366,450
Children's Services and Learning	434,631
Environment and Transport	92,800
TOTAL	2,147,020