

Subject: Grants to outside bodies

Status: For Information

Report to: Performance Overview & Scrutiny

Date: 1st March 2007

Report of: Head of Community and Partnerships and Partnerships Support Officer

Portfolio holder: Community and Partnership: Cllr Darryl Smith

BACKGROUND INFORMATION **Tick Box**

Draft Policy Framework Document

Response to Consultation

New Policy Initiative

Other (please state)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Overview and Scrutiny about the policy on Grants to Outside Bodies which it reviewed in February 2006
- inform Overview and Scrutiny of the proposed allocations for 2007/8
- inform Overview and Scrutiny about the impact of Council grants allocated to outside bodies in 06/07.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Embedding Our Customer Promise
Promoting Rossendale
Equalities

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

The evaluation report will enable the Council to build up a picture of the impact of our grants policy. By increasing our understanding of what kinds of projects have worked well and what has been less successful, we are better able to assess future applicants' proposals and advise them on how their applications can reflect best practice.

4. BACKGROUND/REASON FOR REPORT

4.1 In February 2006 Overview and Scrutiny received a report on the new policy for distributing grants to external bodies and voluntary sector organisations.

This report includes a copy of that previous report and an update on the allocation of grants in 2006/7 and proposed spend in 2007/8

Grants to outside bodies are £216,262 for 07/08 which represents 1.9% of RBC's total budget for 2007-08 of £11,199,000.

4.2 Organisations from the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector were invited to apply for Council grants in December 2005. Grants were awarded to organisations that were able to demonstrate their ability to add value to services needed by the communities in Rossendale and which complemented the Council's Corporate Objectives and those of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), the Rossendale Partnership.

All organisations awarded a grant were also required to sign a funding agreement which set out the amounts awarded, what the funding has been awarded for and the outcomes and outputs to be achieved.

4.3 The Monitoring and Evaluation Process

In January 2006 organisations were required to complete a monitoring and evaluation form on the progress of the project/services being delivered as a result of the funding awarded to them. The form asks whether they had achieved the outputs and outcomes as agreed in their funding agreements, as well as reporting on the number of beneficiaries or service users and any problems that had occurred.

4.4 Results of Monitoring and Evaluation 2006/07

- In 2006/07 a total of £215,614 was awarded to 28 organisations from the voluntary, community and faith sector. The original budget allocated for 06/07 was £220,450, however the funding for North West Arts Board was removed from the grants policy and funded through alternative budget.
- Of the total awarded there remains £14,546 of money unspent. This does not however, include the payment to Age Concern (£1000) and Whitworth Historical Society (£2900) for their rent which was agreed in previous years – this will be spent by the year end.

- Members should note that Spurgeons were allocated a budget spend of up to a maximum £33,845. However the projected spend up to March 07 is £23,199 resulting £10,646 of the saving.
- This advisory group has already agreed to recommend that this under spend is carried forward into the next years budget in order to support further grant giving opportunities through area forums.
- There are still 8 organisations that are yet to spend all the money awarded to them. Sunnycrest is the only organisation that has **not spent any** of the money awarded to them. However all these organisations have indicated that the remaining money will be spent by 31st March 07. See appendix 1. The Partnerships Support Officer will be working to ensure that all spend is delivered on time.
- Members will be aware that the funding agreement allows for claw back of unspent allocated grants.
- The types of projects/services funded by the Council and the purpose of the funding can be viewed in appendix 1. Housing support, victim support, advice on debt and benefits and environmental projects are just some of the services/projects funded by the Council. The grants awarded also reflected the diversity of the Borough.
- The purpose of the funding can be split into two categories:
 - 1. Funding to maintain current services by paying for rent, buying equipment or salary of employer.
 - 2. Funding to deliver specific projects.
- The beneficiaries of the funding provided by the Council can be viewed in appendix 2. The main beneficiaries were young people. Also families, BME groups, people with disabilities, victims of crime, people in debt, are just some of the other beneficiaries of the Council grants.
- Older people appear to have experienced little benefit from the grants awarded.
- The full outcomes of the funding provided by the Council can be viewed in appendix 2, however, a sample include:
 - The Credit Unions have helped to reduce financial exclusion by providing easy repayment loans to those in financial difficulties.
 - The CAB has dealt with over 5 million pounds worth of debt in the calendar year ending 31/12/06.
 - Burnley Women's Refuge are continuing to provide vital support to women and children and risk of domestic violence. Four families from Rossendale have been accommodated in Burnley Refuge centre.

- The Family Centres in Bacup and Whitworth have undertaken various activities for families ranging from playgroup sessions, family day trips and after school clubs. The centres are helping to enhance parental skills and strengthen family ties.
- Over 80 victims of crime have received personal support. These are just some of the outcomes achieved.
- Some organisation did experienced difficulties in delivering their projects/services. Recruiting and retaining volunteers and limited funding sources were stated as the main constraints on service/project delivery. We will work with our partners at REAL, the Community Network and Council for Voluntary Services to help overcome these problems in future years.
- Organisations were asked whether the Council gave all the money they needed to deliver their project/services. Of the 26 organisation that received payment, only 7 said that the Council gave all the money required. Those that said no were able to obtain further funding from other funding bodies or used money donated to them. See appendix 3
- Of the 26 organisations that received payment, only 13 carried out satisfaction surveys with service users. See appendix 3 and only two organisations asked non users why they don't use their projects/services. However this was only in the form of verbal feedback. We are hoping to increase these figures in future years however, not all grants are suitable for this sort of analysis.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 All applications have been considered and are detailed at appendix 4.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

6.1 There is a allocated sum of money for grants to the voluntary sector set aside within the council's budget.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

7.1 None.

8. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

8.1 None.

9. CONCLUSION

The services/projects provided by the voluntary and community sector and the support it gives to individuals and groups is regarded as invaluable. The grants awarded to these local organisations have played a key part in helping to improve the lives of people in the Borough. The achievements compliment the objectives of the Council and the LSP

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Members note the report

10.2 Groups who have not completed spend by the end of the financial year be asked to report back to the next grants advisory group meeting to account for spend.

10.3 That cabinet be recommended to allocate the grants for 2007/8 as in appendix 4.

11. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

No consultation was carried out on this report

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Grants advisory policy	
Specimen Agreement	
Minutes of previous grant advisory group meetings	

Appendix 1

Group / Society	Total Awarded	Total Paid	Total yet to be spent by organisation	Purpose
Age Concern	1,000			Maintain service
Bacup Credit Union	5,300	5,300	2,000	Office rent
Burnley Women's Refuge	7,256	7,256	0	Funding toward part-time employer
Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service	5,000	5,000	0	Funding from Local Authorities towards staffing costs
Citizen Advice Bureau	69,430	69,430	7,552	Maintain service
Community Action for Snig Hole	500	500	0	Purchase of vandal proof benches for park
Community Action in Rossendale	950	950	500	Improved kitchen and internet access at the Mary Hindle Resource Centre
Groundwork Rossendale	17,407	17,407	0	Maintain partnerships and deliver projects. Also to deliver guided walks programme.
Haslingden and Helmshore Credit Union	2,250	2,250	0	rent of office
Horse and Bamboo Theatre	6,000	6,000	0	Contribution toward cost of maintaining Theatre Group
Hospice in Rossendale	1,000	1,000	0	IT equipment - improve marketing and publicity and increase fund raising
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Group NW	500	500	0	2 young people to attend residential to develop peer support networks
Mid Pennine Arts	4,676	4,676		Contribution leads to approx £120k of work benefiting Rossendale
Mid Rossendale Credit Union	2,750	2,750		rent of office
Positive Start	2,000	2,000	1,780	3 projects to young people - Health Matters, Community Cohesion and Education and Employment
Rawtenstall Asian Women's Group	2,000	2,000	0	swimming teacher training, toys for crèche, materials purchase, CAB checks

Rossendale Domestic Violence Forum	10,000	10,000		Funding required to meet increased demand and ensure RBC meets BVPIs
Rossendale Enterprise Anchor Ltd	20,000	20,000	0	Deliver and maintain community network
Rossendale M3 Project	3,600	3,600	0	Office rent
Rossendale Rays	2,000	2,000	0	specialist equipment and training - will enable disabled swimming club to attract new members
Spurgeons	33,845	23,199	0	Contribution to ongoing running costs (£88k)
Stacksteads Riverside Park	1,000	1,000	0	Community Activities - after school club for 10-12 year olds
Sunnycrest	10,000	10,000	10,000	Secure the premises for continued use
Tor View School	800	800	0	Contribution to cost of ski trip to Switzerland for SEN pupils (Cost of one pupil)
Total	215,614	201,068		
Victim Support	2,000	2,000		Provision of drop in sessions
Whitworth Amateur Dramatic Society	1,000	1,000	500	microphones and rehearsal space
Whitworth Historical Society	2,900			Office rent
Whitworth Town Twinning Committee	450	450	0	Contribute toward visit of delegation from Kandel

Appendix 2

Organisation	Key achievements as a result of Council funding	Groups/Users that have benefited
Horse and Bamboo	Active participation of young people in various theatre performances and musicals such as the puppet festival.	2000+ YP from schools across Rossendale
CVS	CVS – Support to various VCF sector groups, represent Rossendale on various groups within the LSP; funding advice to people	50+ groups and VCF organisations - many hundreds of service users
Rossendale M3 project	Covered office rent so that the group can continue providing housing support to young people	April06-Jan07: 13 services users; mainly YP who are vulnerable, homeless Part of the councils strategic housing function.
Mid Rossendale Credit Union	Increased membership, savings and loans.	148 new members from April06-Jan07.
Haslingden & Helmshore Credit Union	Provided easy repayment loans totalling £79091 Developed partnership working, Issued 'Reli' loans Issued consolidation debt loans Issued handy loans Issued discounted Christmas loans. New shop front premises	Financially excluded; Greenvale homes tenant, individual entrepreneurs
Bacup Credit Union	Over 1000 members with a total savings of £178,000. 250 members are deemed financially excluded. Of the 250 we have issued 150 loans. Office opened in Whitworth.	Those living in Bacup area, particularly the financially excluded.
Burnley Women's Refuge	In Rossendale 4 families were accommodated in the refuge and 10 families were referred to us.	Women and Children at risk of domestic violence in Rossendale.
Spurgeons	Playgroup session for children; parent/toddler session; family day trips; after school clubs; Family support	Bacup centre - 103 children and adults from Bacup area.
Groundwork	Key support to LSP Environment theme group and Countryside working group; supported and assisted the work of activities by CVF groups; newsletter to councillors, train, manage and support volunteer guides for a guided walks programme.	A range of voluntary and community organisations Please see groundwork annual report for further details.
Whitworth Amateur Dramatic Society	30 young people have received over 100 hours of rehearsal time in preparation for a major show in March called 'Be our Guest'. Over 900 tickets have been sold for the event	1000+local audience
Victim Support	Outreach service established at Bacup	79 Victims of crime across

	Police Station – 3 hourly sessions on a 3 weekly rotation. Poster displayed in public buildings. 79 victims of crime across Rossendale have received personal support	Rossendale have received personal support
Community Action in Rossendale	New kitchen equipment and installed six computers for public use	Youth groups, Asian women's group, community groups, local people
LGBT Youth North West	Two YP from Rossendale took part in the Youth Pride week. Both YP accessed various forms of support which reduced their isolation. Leading to establishment of Rossendale LGBT youth group.	2 young people supported from Rossendale
Whitworth Town Twinning Committee	In August 2006 35 members of the committee visited Kandel to mark 40 th anniversary of the twinning link between Whitworth and Kandel. Also a delegation from Whitworth Swimming Club & 45 members of Healey brass band also visited at the same time	100 people from Whitworth
Rossendale Rays Swimming Club	10 new volunteers following recruitment evening. Purchased specialist equipment; training to use new swimming equipment,	30 service users benefited
Community Action for Snig Hole	Funding yet to be spent	TBC
Rawtenstall Asian Women's Group	15- 20 women have attended regularly swimming sessions to improve healthy lifestyles. Friendship between the women developed.	Up to 20 Asian women in Rawtenstall
Positive Start	Out of school educational sessions, careers fair, visit to University of central Lancashire, website improved, press release in Free Press, planning stage of key stage 2 weekend lessons to YP.	Over 40 young people mainly from Rawtenstall
Citizen Advice Bureau	CAB consistently represented at various LSP theme groups meetings. Formed new partnerships with Credit Unions and Greenvale Homes to address financial exclusion. 75% of CAB work is money related: advice on debt and benefits.	As of 31/12/06 we have dealt with 3205 new issues. Also long term casework support to 380 debt clients an their families.
Rossendale Enterprise Anchor Limited	Developed and maintaining CVS database which is used to email out information to members on the database 3 postal mailings of information and update requests Increased membership Delivered 2 nd CN conference	Over 600 people have received regular information through the contacts database.
Mid Pennine Arts		

Rossendale Domestic Violence Forum		
Rossendale Hospice	Purchased laptop and projector for meetings, training, events and marketing,	Volunteers, Social Services, Staff
Stacksteads Riverside Park	After school activities for young people 8-14yrs which will continue into 07/08 Supported working parents by taking care of their children.	Up to 65 children and young people from across Rossendale particularly during summer holidays
Sunnycrest Community Enterprise	Will achieve outcomes by Middle March 2007. Outcomes will be disabled friendly facilities, disabled toilets; general refurbishment to building for Community use	The community including Area 51, ADHD group. Trinity Baptist, Bacup Credit Union, Knit and Natter, the Art group.
Tor View School	Pupil with special needs went on a ski trip abroad	1 pupil with Special needs from the school.

Appendix 3

	How much of grant is remaining	Did Council give you all the money needed	Other money put towards funding	Satisfaction surveys	Non User Satisfaction
Bacup Credit Union	2000	NO		NO	NO
Burnley Women's Refuge	0	NO	17820	YES	NO
CAB	7552	NO		YES	NO
Community Action for Snig Hole	500	NO		NO	NO
Community Action in Rossendale	0	YES	724	NO	NO
CVS	0	NO	Core funding	YES	NO
Groundwork Rossendale	0	NO	142,205	YES	NO
HHH Credit Union	0	NO		YES	NO
Horse and Bamboo	0	No	256,000	YES	NO
LGBT Youth NW	0	YES		YES	NO
Mid Rossendale Credit Union	0	Yes	500	NO	NO
Positive Start	1780	NO		NO	NO
Rawtenstall Asian Women's Group	555	YES		NO	YES - verbal feedback
REAL	0	NO		YES	NO
Rossendale Hospice	0	NO		NO	NO
Rossendale M3	0	Yes	0	YES	NO
Rossendale Rays	0	YES		YES	NO
Spurgeons	0	NO	1726	YES	NO
Stacksteads	0	NO	£15,000	YES	NO
Riverside Park					
Sunnycrest	10,000	NO		NO	NO
Tor View School	0	YES		NO	NO
Victim Support	1610	NO	0	YES	NO
Whitworth Dramatic Society	500	NO	2000	NO	NO
Whitworth Town Twinning	0	NO	1377	NO	YES - verbal feedback

Appendix 4

Group / Society	Bid made in 2006/7				Committed Expenditure	
	Amount				2007-8	2008-9
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
Area Forum Grants		20,000	20,000			
Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service	20,000	20,000	20,000		5,000	5,000
CAB	75,000	75,000	75,000		75,000	75,000
Friends of Bocholt	1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000
Groundwork Rossendale	17,407	17,929	18,467		17,929	18,467
Groundwork Rossendale	5,000	5,000	5,000			
Haslingden and Helmshore Credit Union	2,250	2,250	2,250		2,250	2,250
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Group	500	500	500		500	500
Mid Pennine Arts	8,050	8,500	9,000		4,676	0
Rossendale Domestic Violence Forum	12,309	11,075			11,075	0
Rossendale Enterprise Anchor Ltd	41,190	38,273	39,424		20,000	20,000
Ongoing Not subject to bid in last round)						
Age Concern	1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000
Bacup Credit Union	5,300	5,300	5,300		5,300	5,300
Burnley Womens Refuge	7,256	7,256	7,256		7,256	
East Lancs Railway	7,400	7,400	7,400		8,000	8,000
Mid Rossendale Credit Union	2,750	2,750	2,750		2,750	2,750
Spurgeons	33845	33845	33845		25000	25000
Whitworth Hist Society	2,900	2,900	2,900		2,900	
Total	365,393	262,978	254,092		189,636	164,267
Budget					204,262	204,262
BC/fwd					9,517	24,143
					213,779	228,405
Balance - Uncommitted					24,143	64,138

Minutes of: Grants Advisory Group Meeting

Venue: Futures Park. Room 115

Date of Meeting: 20th November 2006

PRESENT:
Cllr Darryl Smith
Cllr June Forshaw
Cllr Amanda Robertson
Cllr David Barnes
Cllr Linda Barnes
Cllr Brian Essex
Miladur Rahman
Ilona Snow Miller
David Heyes

1. 2006/07 Grants Applied for and Allocated

It was reported that the budget allocated for grants in 2006/07 was £200,450. An additional £20,000 was carried forward from 2005/06. In total £220,450 was made available for grants to outside bodies in 2006/07

Spurgeons were allocated a grant up to a maximum £33,845. However after careful review of their spending only £24,764 was given to the organisation.

The projected under spend on grants for 2006/07 is £9,517.

It was mentioned that the grants report that went to Cabinet last year indicated a total of £260,000 of funding available funding for 2006/07. However it was clarified that the total sum of £260,000 included a number of organisation which the Council continues to fund but not under the grants policy. These organisations are now funded through an alternative budget channel. The organisations are:

- SCOSPA (Pennine Prospects)
- East Lancashire Partnership
- Rossendale M3 Project
- North West Arts Board.

2. Grants Committed 2007/08

Subject to budget approval the total that will be made available for grants in 2007/08 will be £204, 262 plus the additional 9,517 carried forward from 2006/07. In total £213, 779 will be allocated into the grants budget for 2007/08.

The Grants Advisory Group has already committed a total of £178,960 to voluntary and community organisations for 2007/08.

The total uncommitted for 2007/08 is £34,819.

3. Proposal for expenditure

In addition to the £178,960 already committed to in 2007/08, it was proposed that we also fund the following organisations in 2007/08.

- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services (BPR CVS) - £5,000
- Friends of Bocholt - £1,000.
- Mid Pennine Arts - £4,676.

If the Grants Advisory Group agree to fund the following three organisations the total uncommitted for 2007/8 will change to £24,143.

The grants advisory group agreed that we should not fund Mid Pennine Arts as most of their activities are not focussed in Rossendale. The benefits gained from funding this organisation are minimal.

Action: Ilona to investigate how we intend to stop funding Mid Pennine Arts for future years.

The Grants Advisory Group agreed that we fund BPR CVS and Friends of Bocholt as proposed.

Assuming that we do not fund Mid Pennine Arts the total uncommitted for 2007/08 will be £28,819.

There was a discussion about our funding agreement with Citizen Advice Bureau. For 2007/08 we have committed to fund CAB a total of £75,000. It was proposed that we should review the amount we intend to give to the CAB.

Action: Ilona to ask chair of Overview and Scrutiny to review the total amount the Council intends to award to the CAB.

4. Proposed recommendation for uncommitted funds 2007/08

It was suggested that it would be inappropriate to open a grants bidding round for outside bodies for 2007/08 as we only have a small amount of uncommitted funds.

The recommendation was to allocate a total of £20,000 to each of the four Area Forums (£5,000 each) with the remaining amount put aside for contingency funds.

The Grants Advisory Group agreed that this would be the best way forward.

Action: Ilona to write report for Cabinet and Full Council in March 2007 setting out the recommendation agreed by the Grants Advisory Group.

The Grants Advisory Group also agreed to meet in November 2007 to review the grants process.