



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 16TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT: REVISION OF CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Panel to consider revised criteria for the grant applications that request financial assistance. The revised criteria can then be recommended to the Acting Head of Corporate Finance to approve under delegated powers.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises Panel members of the current criteria together with a revised draft criteria which can be amended in an interactive group discussion. The recommendations can then be approved by Acting Head of Corporate Finance.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Voluntary and Community Sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the borough and are key participants in the Community Strategy implemented through the Single Integrated Plan Caerphilly Delivers. The Single Integrated Plan has the following priority outcomes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly and Healthier Caerphilly.

4. REPORT

4.1 Criteria Revision

- 4.1.1 In previous meetings Panel members have indicated that they would like to revise the criteria to enable more applications to be categorised and thus reduce the number of applications that the Panel needs to debate.
- 4.1.2 All the applications supported during 2013-14 have been analysed against the current criteria headings together with the amounts awarded as shown in Appendix 1. Total payments in 2013/14 were £24,315.40.
- 4.1.3 Appendix 2 shows how the 2013/14 spend of £24,315.40 could be allocated against a set of revised criteria. During 2013/14 the Panel recommended approval of 39 applications that did not meet the current criteria. These have been reviewed and slotted into suggested new categories for Members to consider. During the meeting on the 16th July Members can suggest alternative categories and allocations and a laptop and projector will be available to enable the financial impact of suggested changes to be shown in real time. The aim will be to agree a set of criteria that will not exceed the 2013/14 spend level of £24,315.40.

4.1.4 During this process Panel Members may wish to take into account the Council's six improvement objectives for 2014-15, these are listed below: -

- Ensure children and young people who are looked after are supported to achieve their full potential
- Improve job opportunities by implementing the council's Passport scheme
- Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people
- Improve awareness, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities
- Investment in council homes to transform lives and communities
- Improve the availability of private and public sector housing to reduce the number of residents who may become homeless

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Equalities Team will be asked to review the agreed set of criteria to determine whether there are any equalities implications arising.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members consider the revised criteria and award amounts and make appropriate recommendations to the Acting Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure that the applications received under this report are determined in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation criteria.

11. STATURORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Councils Financial Regulations.

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Consultees: Stephen R. Harris - Acting Head of Corporate Finance
A. Southcombe - Finance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 2013-14 Awards

Appendix 2 Suggested New Criteria/Allocations