

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

<p>ASSET AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT, SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE AND ADULT AND CHILDRENS SERVICES CABINET MEMBERS</p>
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COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The council has increased the level of funding available to community groups and talented individuals.
- 1.2 The key points of the report are as follows.
 - The council will use the Community Grant Fund to help support community groups and talented individuals to realise their aspirations and help deliver priorities for the area.
 - We need to approve new criteria which will be used to guide the allocation of the new fund.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council recognises the important role that community groups play in making North Lincolnshire an excellent place to work, live and play. The council also wishes to support talented individuals to become the very best that they can in their chosen activity. The council has increased the funds available to support community groups and talented individuals. In return, the council will expect recipients of grant funding to help deliver key priorities for the area.
- 2.2 New criteria have been developed to guide applicants and assess applications. The new criteria are set out in Appendix 1.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The proposed draft criteria for use are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Options are limited to the following:
 - Approving the criteria as set out in Appendix 1, or

- Reject the new criteria set out in Appendix 1.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The new criteria was developed to ensure the following:

- Community groups and talented individuals are supported to realise their aims and ambitions
- Make explicit what the council's priorities are for the area
- Make clear the council's expectation that community groups and talented individuals who receive funding will contribute to delivering priorities for the area

4.2 Rejecting the new criteria will delay rolling out the new grant programme pending the development of an alternative set of funding criteria.

4.3 In light of the above, officers suggest that the best option is to adopt the criteria for funding as set out at Appendix 1.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 The council will invest an additional £357,370 in supporting groups and talented individuals. This represents a 251% increase in the funding available. The result is a community grant fund for this year amounting to £500,000.

5.2 Staffing, Property and IT

5.2.1 There are no major Staffing, Property or IT implications arising from this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 We will expect groups, where appropriate, to show that their projects will reduce the impact on the environment and tackle crime and the fear of crime.

6.2 Applicant organisations must have policies addressing all statutory responsibilities including health and safety, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and equality and diversity.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 We have consulted with a sample community group. They are happy with the proposed criteria. We have also discussed the draft criteria with relevant officers in legal services.

- 7.2 Community groups have told us that they need support from the council to help lever in other grants to deliver their projects. The increased funding offers the opportunity for more people and communities to deliver services, projects and facilities.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Members approve the new criteria for the community grant funds as attached at Appendix 1.

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

Hewson House
Station Road
BRIGG
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XY

Author: Tom Coburn/Simon Seal
Date: 30 April 2012

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Previous community grant schemes guidance and application forms, North Lincolnshire Council.

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

North Lincolnshire Council recognises the importance of individuals, local groups and organisations in delivering on priorities in local communities, which in turn help to make North Lincolnshire an excellent place to live, work and play. The Council has a funding pot with a view to:

- Encouraging and supporting communities who wish to strengthen their local community through the provision of facilities, events, activities or services to local children and young people, families, and adults of all ages
- Encouraging and supporting voluntary groups to run existing Council facilities, services and activities
- Encouraging town and parish councils to run existing and new services
- Support and enable talented people to progress their development and realise their full potential in the field of sport, arts and culture.

Who can apply for the fund

INDIVIDUALS

Talented Individuals resident in North Lincolnshire who are able to demonstrate excellence in sport/art or culture, supported by independent evidence, e.g. selection to a recognised governing body national sports squad, working with professional artists, practitioner in a residence, mentoring or master class setting.

ORGANISATIONS

The fund will support the following organisations if they are non profit making and have social aims:

- Junior and Youth Groups (registered with North Lincolnshire Council)
- Charitable bodies

- Trusts
- Co-operatives
- Industrial and provident societies
- Not for profit constituted organisations
- Town and parish councils

Applications from new groups are welcomed.

What kind of activity will be supported

The fund will support a wide range of facilities, events, activities and services that will help deliver some of the following council priorities:

Make our communities stronger

- Raise aspirations and empower our young people
- Value and support independence for our older residents
- Value and support children young people and adults with special needs
- Promote equality and celebrate diversity
- Tackle crime and the fear of crime
- Utilise Localism legislation to support our communities to define what they want for their area and to encourage more accountable democracy
- Encourage volunteering and support projects, which reflect the Big Society

Make our communities healthier

- Work to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of North Lincolnshire.

Provide value for tax payers money

- Work in partnership with any organisation or individual who will enable us to deliver better facilities/services/activities/events as measured through

increased frequency, activities more tailored to the needs of local users, provided at times when local people want them and increase value.

The fund may be used to support the following

- Equipment
- Salaries
- Transport
- Training
- Hire of premises (for junior or young groups where concessionary rate has not been secured)

Examples of Capital Projects that may receive support include:

- Playing fields/sports, arts & heritage facilities
- Children's playgrounds
- Community buildings
- Major equipment

What we cannot normally fund

- a) Repairs to damage caused by fire or vandalism
- b) Groups not legally constituted
- d) Groups who can not demonstrate evidence of their own fund raising efforts
- e) Projects to premises used solely as places of worship
- f) Retrospective applications
- g) Schools and colleges
- h) Political groups or groups promoting political activities
- i) Groups/organisations where the majority of the membership live outside of North Lincolnshire Council boundaries
- j) Groups whose activities exclude young people under 18 years

- k) Grant making bodies applying for funding to redistribute to individuals or groups
- l) Repair and maintenance projects

How much will we fund

Individuals

Our normal grant offer is £500, unless a lesser amount is needed. Talented sports individuals will also receive free off peak access to the council's fitness centres and swimming pools for the duration of the financial year in which the grant was given.

Projects:

Normally the maximum grant awarded will be 90% of the project cost up to a maximum of £15,000. For projects with a capital cost in excess of £60,000, groups could be eligible for one grant of up to £30,000 in any five year period. There are no restrictions on the number of smaller grants a group can apply for, but priority may be given to groups who have not previously received support from the fund.

Grant aid will be based on the estimated net cost of the work involved. Any VAT payments will only be covered by grant aid if they are non-reclaimable.

For larger projects in parished areas, the town or parish council will normally be expected to contribute a minimum of 5% or £5,000, whichever is the lesser, towards the total cost of the project.

The applicant group will normally be expected to contribute a minimum of 5% or £5,000, whichever is the lesser, towards the cost of the project.

Grant aid conditions – important things to note

1. Each application will be considered on its own merits.
Consideration will include
 - a) The benefits that will accrue to the children, young people, families, adults or community to which the application applies
 - b) The children, young people, families, adults or community must be within the North Lincolnshire Council boundary
 - c) The aims of the event, activity or service must contribute to the Council's priorities and in the case of junior or youth or family focused applications must contribute to achieving priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - d) The purpose for which the financial assistance is being requested
 - e) Whether the objectives can be achieved more effectively
 - f) Evidence of the applying body's efforts to raise the funding themselves
 - g) Evidence of financial need. We would not normally expect you to have unallocated reserves in excess of six months turnover. If you have more than this in your bank at the time of applying for financial help, please explain what this is for.

2. Grants will normally be paid retrospectively on production of proof of expenditure. Advance payment maybe made in exceptional circumstances, which must be specified on the application. Applicants must be able to show that their organisation has sufficient funds to meet their share of the expenditure.

3. Any salary grants will be subject to a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between North Lincolnshire Council and the organisation receiving the

financial assistance. The SLA will be outcome focused and subject to quarterly monitoring.

4. Any premises used by the applicants must be suitable for the activity (activities) to be undertaken and meet the needs of the client group.
5. Recognition of the support received from North Lincolnshire Council must be displayed on all appropriate written materials eg posters, leaflets, programmes, reports, newsletters and on any web based or social media marketing and must include North Lincolnshire Council logo.
6. Applications from groups that have an involvement wider than North Lincolnshire will be considered on a pro rata basis.
7. To ensure equity and value diversity, resources may be targeted from time to time on specific age groups, issues, or localities.
8. A representative of North Lincolnshire Council must be permitted access to the activities, documents or meetings of any organising body receiving grant aid. In respect of grant-aided events North Lincolnshire Council must be allocated four complimentary tickets.
9. North Lincolnshire Council must be invited to participate in any media coverage organised to coincide with the commencement of the activity or publicity linked to the event.
10. Applicant groups must have a bank account that requires at least two people who are unrelated and do not live at the same address to sign each cheque or make a withdrawal.

11. Applicant organisations must have policies addressing all statutory responsibilities including health and safety, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and equality and diversity.
12. Applicant organisations must be legally constituted on a not for profit basis with a committee including at least three responsible adults. The applicant group will have a constitution or set of written rules. This must contain a dissolution clause that states that any assets purchased with the grant funding will be kept for community use should the group cease to exist.
14. North Lincolnshire Council is committed to minimising its impact upon the environment. Where appropriate we will expect groups receiving grant aid to show how their projects will reduce the impact upon the environment.
15. Grant aid for hire of premises will only be considered in the current financial year, ie 1 April to 31 March.
16. If the applicant does not meet the stated objectives, the council will clawback any grant aid offered.
17. Where grant aid is requested towards capital work to facilities, the organisation must normally have security of tenure on the premises, either by freehold or leasehold with an unexpired term of 7 to 25 years, depending on the size of the project.
18. All premises and facilities grant aided must be kept adequately insured.

19. A report must be submitted within six months of the project completion or in the case of individuals, six months of receiving financial support.

Applicants for individual support will be expected to use their talents to make a difference in the community. For example, to help run a coaching session for young people, give a performance to a local group or work with schools or youth clubs.

How to apply

Complete the application form at the end of this booklet, or download one from www.northlincs.gov.uk and send it to Sport, Leisure & Culture, Hewson House, Station Road, Brigg, DN20 8XY together with any required supporting information.

Help and guidance is available on request via telephone on (01724) 297257 or email: community.recreation@northlincs.gov.uk. Examples of support include advice, information and guidance on safeguarding, governance arrangements etc.

Applications must be fully completed and will not be considered unless full supporting information, as indicated on the application form, is provided.

Talk to the Council about your proposed project. Staff will offer pre-application and project development support. Applications for support should be made only for the financial year in which the money will be spent.