

# Minutes of Community Grants Working Group

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 20 February 2024, starting at 9.30 am  
Present: Councillor R Newmark

Councillors:

J Alcock

M Robinson

In attendance: Director of Community Services, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, Sports Development Officer, Arts Development Officer, PA to the Director of Community Services, and Senior Accountant

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Barnsley and L Street.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

## 3 SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Council's Sports Development Officer reminded Members that the Sporting Excellence Awards were awarded to young people in the Borough competing at a County level and above to support families with the costs associated with their chosen sport. He noted that the Council had received 23 applications for 2024, which was an increase on the 16 applications received in 2023. The criteria against which the applicants were scored was summarised for Members and it was highlighted that all applicants that had applied in 2024 had qualified for an award of some level.

Members queried if any applications had been received from disabled young people and were keen to ensure that applications were encouraged.

**Members supported the suggested award amounts and recommended Sporting Excellence grant awards totalling £3750 for approval by Community Services Committee.**

## 4 ARTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Council's Arts Development Officer noted that 25 applications had been received for 2024. The detailed scoresheet was shared with Members which recommended that 12 out of the 25 applicants receive an amount in line with their score. In accordance with the grant criteria, those scoring 10 or below were not recommended for an award. Around half of the applicants for 2024 had not applied in previous years.

It was noted that there was one application yet to be scored, however the applicant had scored highly the previous year and was therefore expected to score highly again against the criteria and would likely qualify for an award for 2024.

Members discussed the applications and noted an application which had narrowly missed an award by receiving a score of 10. They felt that based on the applicants age and skill level they would support an exception, and recommend an amount be awarded should there be any funding left in the budget once the successful awards had been granted.

**Members recommended the suggested award amounts totalling £3750 for approval by Community Services Committee, and delegated authority to the Council's Arts Development Officer to confirm the award amount for the one remaining unscored applicant, with the recommendation that an amount be awarded by exception to one unqualifying applicant subject to any remaining funding.**

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## RECREATION AND CULTURE GRANT AWARDS

The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services informed Committee of the applications received which had been categorised in accordance with the grant criteria. Members considered each application in turn.

There were sixteen applications that met the criteria. Of those, separate applications had been received from Blaze Arts and Braille IT that had been awarded grants for the same purpose in 2023, and therefore would not qualify for a further award. Members wished to support the applications, and recommended grant awards of £1000 for each project, which was less than the amounts requested in each case. The suggested grant awards for the remaining fourteen applications were all recommended for approval.

There were three applications that met some of the criteria. Of those, two applications were not recommended for approval due to elements that did not meet the criteria for the fund. The group felt that the third application, which was for West Bradford Community Hub, required further investigation by Officers. However, Members wished to support the project and recommended for approval a provisional grant award of £1500, subject to the review by Officers.

There were fourteen applications that did not meet the criteria for the fund and were therefore not recommended for a grant award for 2024. The Head of Cultural and Leisure Services noted that the Council did not award grants to support revenue costs and clarified for Members that this usually included repair and maintenance works, which should be factored into running costs as they would be expected over time.

Members requested that unsuccessful applicants be advised of the reasons they had not been successful for their information, and to aid any future applications they may wish to make.

Members expressed concerns for applicants over confusion with the Voluntary Organisations, and Recreation & Culture grant schemes, and discussed potential ways to both improve the process and inform applicants. It was noted that substantial information was available on both the website and application form for R&C Grants, however, there was sometimes a crossover with the VO Grant Scheme. The VO scheme came under Policy and Finance Committee, and the revenue costs for projects could be supported, which was different to R&C grants. Members felt that a larger window between the deadlines for each grant scheme may be useful, which would enable those who were unsuccessful for a VO Grant to review and consider the R&C grant criteria and potentially amend their application in order to qualify.

**The group recommended grant awards amounting to £30,000 for approval by Community Services Committee. The total budget for 2024/25 was £39,056 therefore this would result in a remaining budget of £9,056. Members recommended that this remain in the budget should any further projects come forward.**

The meeting closed at 10.45 am

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Rebecca Hodgson 01200 414408 .