
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM:	11
DATE OF MEETING:	05 June 2003	CATEGORY:	
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	RECOMMENDED	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Community Partnerships Scheme	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	CS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants totalling £49,395 to West St Methodist Church, Linton Sports Activity Centre, Friends of Newhall Churches, Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust and Hilton Scouts and Guide Association
- 1.2 That members agree to the proposal for a minimum of two other panel meetings scheduled for September and January with possible further meetings dependant upon the volume of applications received.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update members on applications for funding received by the Community Partnerships Scheme. Also to seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme and administrative arrangements for the remainder of this years scheme.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Community Partnership Scheme for 2003/04 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as was agreed when the scheme was launched last year except for an increase in budget to £150,000 and extra panel meetings to allow for distribution of the grants across the year. In addition to allocating grant the scheme allows for funding advice and project development support to the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.2 In total ten applications were received asking for approximately £105,000 against a budget for the year of £150,000. The panel assessed and ranked the applications according to the criteria and has made a recommendation to fund five of the ten projects. In addition to considering the scores the panel needed to bear in mind other factors such as the overall budget, the development stage of projects and quality of information received. Consequently two awards are for the full amount requested, one is for the full amount with conditions attached and the other two are for the full amount according to eligibility criteria. Of the five unsuccessful projects one was felt ineligible and the others will be given feedback about how to improve their application

or alternative funding sources. In some cases there will be the possibility of resubmission.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 A revamped Community Partnerships Scheme was re-launched midway through 2002/03 offering capital grants of up to £25,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. As part of the re-launch it was agreed that an assessment panel should be set up comprising the Partnership Development Officer and three Councillors. Further this panel would assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee. Following the first and only meeting of the panel last year the Housing and Community Services Committee in February 2003 approved grants amounting to £50,000 to six projects from a total of nine applications received.
- 4.2 The amount of grant available for distribution through the Scheme has since been increased from £50,000 in 2002/03 to £150,000 in 2003/04. This increase in grant, the number of projects registering an interest in the scheme and the development stage of some of the projects has necessitated calling an early first meeting of the panel.
- 4.3 In addition to simply operating a grants programme the Community Partnership Scheme through the Partnership Development Officer is also able to offer some advice in relation to making funding applications, sources of funding and project development. Further in some instances the officer is able to offer limited direct project development support.
- 4.4 In the period since the February Committee the Partnership Development Officer has received 32 enquiries from different groups about the scheme. Responses have ranged from merely signposting to other funders or sending out forms to more intensive project development support
- 4.5 The applications received for this meeting of the panel are a combination of projects resubmitting from last year, projects that have received some advice or support and projects that have seen publicity about the scheme and simply requested a form.
- 4.6 In brief applications were received from ten organisations as follows:
 - Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust – for a feasibility study and contract management costs towards a new Community Hall (Requesting £15,058 and £3,198 – Total £18,256)
 - Friends of Newhall Churches - for improved car parking (Requesting £13,630)
 - Etwell and District Age Concern – for a bus shelter at Welbrook Medical Centre, Hilton (Requesting £1,150)
 - Brick Room Management Committee Linton - for improvements to the church based community facility (Requesting £25,000)
 - Practical Angling for the Disabled – for provision of light weight all weather protective clothing (Requesting £1,000)
 - West Street Methodist Church - for a feasibility study towards renovation and refurbishment of church owned premises into community facilities (Requesting £4,500)
 - Linton Sports Activity Centre – for new sports activity centre (Requesting £25,000)
 - Hilton Scout and Guide Association – for feasibility work towards provision of a new building (Amount requested not specified)

Community Transport – for installation of a through floor lift (Amount requested not specified)

Linton Parish Council – for play equipment (Amount requested not specified)

4.7 Further details of the projects have been summarised in Appendix 1.

4.8 The Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel met on May 21st and scored the applications against the questions and weightings previously agreed during the relaunch of the scheme and attached as Appendix 2. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

The table below illustrates the weighted scores from the appraisals, the total score and the ranking. The application from Practical Angling for the Disabled was not scored. The reason for this was that the panel felt that the request for lightweight all weather protective clothing did not meet the scheme's eligibility criteria relating to being major items of equipment and capital as opposed to revenue costs.

Project	Council Priorities	External Funding	Sustainability	Community Involvement	Value for Money	Risk	Equal Opps	Total	Rank
West St Methodist Church	1.5	2.0	1.83	1.67	.67	.17	.17	8.00	1
Linton "Rickmans Corner"	1.00	1.33	2.00	1.33	1.00	.17	.17	7.00	2
Friends of Newhall Churches	.5	.67	1.67	1.33	.33	.33	.33	5.17	3=
Dalbury Lees	.5	.67	1.83	1.33	.33	.33	.17	5.17	3=
Hilton Scouts	.5	1.33	1.17	1.0	.67	.17	0	4.83	5
Etwell & District Age Concern	0	2.0	1.33	.67	.33	.17	.17	4.67	6
Linton Brick Room	.5	.67	.83	1.0	.33	.17	.17	3.67	7
Linton Parish Council	.5	0	1.5	1.0	.33	.17	0	3.5	8
Community Transport	0.5	0	.83	.67	.33	0	.5	2.83	9
Practical Angling for the Disabled									

4.9 With the scoring completed the assessment panel then considered how best to distribute grants, particularly bearing in mind that another two rounds of applications were scheduled. The panel took into consideration a number of factors, first and foremost the scores attained through the assessment process but also judgements about whether the projects were time critical, whether awards could be scaled down, whether projects could be usefully deferred or resubmitted pending further information and whether special conditions should be attached.

4.10 As a result of these deliberations the panel's recommendations were as follows. That the top two scoring projects (West Street Methodist Church Feasibility Study and

Linton Sports and Activity Centre) should receive full awards. That Friends of Newhall Churches and Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust Feasibility study both in joint 3rd should also receive a full award (i.e. up to 25% of total project costs). However in the case of The Friends of Newhall Churches project a condition should be attached that they must supply additional quotes as the single one offered didn't supply sufficient value for money information. In the case of Dalbury Lees the award given was towards the feasibility element of their request and not the contract management element. The award given was therefore 25% of that element of their request. Finally in the case of the 5th highest scoring project, Hilton Scouts' request for a Feasibility Study a full award was made according to the information received. As the application didn't contain a study brief or any proper estimates the award is conditional on those being provided.

4.11 At this point the panel had awarded approximately a third of the years resources (£50,000) with a projected further two rounds of applications to come. The other projects were therefore deemed to be unsuccessful. Whilst considering these unsuccessful projects the panel felt that both Community Transport and Linton Parish Council though worthy had submitted poor applications. It was therefore requested that they be offered some additional support with their applications should they wish to resubmit. In the case of Linton Brick Room it was their second unsuccessful application. In light of this the panel felt that they should only resubmit if they are successful with their other fundraising efforts.

4.12 The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant for this financial year is therefore as follows:

West Street Methodist Church	£4,500
Linton Community Sports and Activity Centre	£25,000
Friends of Newhall Churches (max' depend' on fulfilment of conditions)	£13,630
Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall Trust	£3,765
Hilton Scouts & Guide Association (max' depend' on fulfilment of conditions)	£2,500

4.13 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources each of the projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. Successful projects will then have 12 months in which to spend their award. If the grant is not spent within this time period then applicants will need to reapply unless otherwise agreed. Grant payments will be released upon receipt of invoices or independently certified completion reports. The projects will also be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project have been met.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnerships budget allocation.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing the natural and built environment, promoting the health and welfare of all sections of the community, managing resources efficiently and effectively and supporting the development of the National Forest. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It has also reopened direct lines of communication with the community sector that had been lost since the demise of the former Community Partnership Scheme. This is particularly likely to be helpful in connection with the emerging Local Strategic Partnership.
- 7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The reintroduced Community Partnerships Scheme continues to provide the District Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It has also enabled the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments 2003/04

