
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services	AGENDA ITEM:	7
DATE OF MEETING:	6 October 2005	CATEGORY:	
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	DELEGATED OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh/D Fletcher	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Community Partnership Scheme	REF: HCS 07	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All		

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award a grant of £19,643 to Hill Street Baptist Church for their Weekday Welcome extension project.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To update members on applications for funding received by the Community Partnership Scheme and seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 The Community Partnership Scheme for 2005/06 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to Committee.

3.2 In total one application was received for the second bidding round of 2005/06 asking for £19,643 against a remaining budget of £139,062.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Community Partnership Scheme offers capital grants of up to £25,000 from an annual budget of £150,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel comprising five Councillors, with advice from the Partnership Development Officer and the Community Partnership Officer, assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.

4.2 The following application was received and considered for the second round of the scheme in 2005/06:

Hill Street Baptist Church – Weekday Welcome Project (Requesting £19,643)

The project is actually a resubmission of a project originally submitted to the scheme in December 2003 and approved for a grant of £5,000 from a total estimated project cost of £20,400 plus VAT and architects fees. However, during the time the church spent getting planning permission, building regulations and trustee approval building prices increased sharply and legislation on wheelchair access changed meaning an increase in space requirements. As a consequence of these factors project costs rose dramatically and necessitated a revised funding strategy including a revised submission to this scheme.

The original aim of the Weekday Welcome project remains the same, that is to create a user-friendly, accessible, welcoming entrance and improved toilet facilities at the church to enable them to better serve existing community provision and also expand their services to a wider number of user-groups.

On the appointment of a new minister in 2001, the church members made it clear they wanted to serve the community. As a result they conducted a survey of local residents within the community, which highlighted the need for services for the young, elderly, lonely and housebound. A number a number of groups have since been launched and maintained in response to the community need identified including a parent and toddler group, youth club, after school club and coffee and chat group for the elderly and housebound.

The Church is run by its members and membership has doubled since the 2001 appointment. It is also worth noting that as part of it's revised funding strategy the church also appointed a funding co-ordinator.

The total eligible project cost is £78,572. The church has the following funding in place:

Reserves	-	£20,000
Other Funding Applications	-	£23,200
Gift Day Contributions	-	£ 4,754
Confirmation offer of		
An interest-free loan	-	£ 8,000
TOTAL	-	£55,954

The Church also has several funding applications outstanding and further facilities for arranging loans should that be necessary.

- 4.3 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 15 September 2005 to score the application against the questions and weightings previously agreed during the relaunch of the scheme. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

Once the weightings had been applied the final score of the project was as follows:

Hill Street Baptist Church

6.50

- 4.4 The point previously used, as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee was 4.67. The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant was therefore as follows:

4.5 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources the project will be contacted and informed of the decision. A successful project 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 a sustainable environment, reducing crime and disorder, developing a vibrant economy and improving access to leisure and cultural activities. 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 also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector.

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 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 also enables the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments Round 2 2005/06

