

## **Policy Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

# **CRAVEN COMMUNITY CORE FUNDING SCHEME – APPLICATIONS**



### Report of Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration

Ward(s) affected: All

#### 1. **Purpose of Report** –

To present the recommendation of the Community Grants Sub-Committee for the award of funding under the Council's Community Grants Programme – Community Core Funding Scheme.

#### 2. **Recommendations** –

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve recommendation 1(a) and 1(b) of the Community Grants Sub-Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 as set out in the Minutes re-produced at Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 Agree that the surplus budget made available for core funding support is held as a contingency and, if not required, is carried forward into the 2015/16 financial year

#### 3. **Background** –

- 3.1 As at Minute POL.563/13-14, Policy Committee tasked the Community Grants Sub-Committee with agreeing the criteria for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 core grant funding scheme.
- 3.2 As at Minute CG.55(1)/13-14, the Sub-Committee agreed the criteria and assessment framework for administering the Council's 2014/15 and 2015/16 core grant funding scheme. It was agreed that the purpose of the scheme was to support local community and voluntary groups and organisations to deliver services that would benefit the local community and citizens of Craven and which would make a positive contribution to assisting the Council in the delivery of the following priorities:
  - Supporting local economic growth
  - Increasing local participation, engagement and volunteering in sport, recreation and cultural activities
  - Supporting local citizens to become more actively involved in their community

- Improving the opportunities available to local citizens, especially those who are disadvantaged
- Maintaining the quality of the local environment and increasing pride of place

3.2 Furthermore, it was agreed that applications should be assessed against criteria to evaluate:

- How well the service contributed to the Council's stated priorities
- Whether the service responded to a clearly identified need and had the support of the local community
- How well the group/organisation took into account the needs and aspirations of the community it sought to serve
- Whether the service would deliver clear outcomes for the communities and citizens of Craven
- Whether the budget was accurate and reasonable, and there was appropriate financial controls in place
- Whether the service demonstrated value for money in terms of measurable results for the funding invested
- Whether the group/organisation had a realistic forward plan for its future operation beyond 2015/16

3.3 The Council received a total of 16 applications seeking total funding of £149,583 for the financial year 2014/15 and £156,617 for the financial year 2015/16. Based on the assessment criteria and consideration by the Sub-Committee, eight applications have been recommended for an award of core grant funding; these are set out in Appendix C.

3.4 The total value of funding awarded in the financial year 2014/15 is £70,004 . Funding has been recommended for the financial year 2015/16; however it is proposed that this is in principle only, subject to satisfactory progress being made with regard to the implementation of the delivery plan accompanying the application, a review of financial circumstances and a willingness to work with the Council in exploring alternative funding streams. The total value of the "in principle" awards in the financial year 2015/16 is £63,500.

3.5 Those applications that the Sub-Committee recommended not to award core funding are set out in Appendix B.

#### 4. **Implications**

##### 4.1 **Financial Implications –**

The core funding awarded, as set out in Appendix C, can be met within the budget approved by Policy Committee at Minute POL.563/13-14.

Policy Committee approved a budget of £72,738 in the financial year 2014/15 and £65,464 in the financial year 2015/16 for the provision of grant aid through the

Council's Community Core Funding Scheme. In agreeing the funding allocation, Policy Committee resolved that applicants should demonstrate a willingness to work with the Council to ensure the organisation's sustainability for 2015/16 and beyond. The aim is to provide them with additional assistance to explore opportunities to implement efficiency savings or new income streams to ensure their future sustainability without reliance on Council funding. This will be included as a condition of funding and will be incorporated within the funding agreement between the applicant and the Council. An organisation's willingness to work with the Council in exploring alternative funding streams will form part of the review process with regard to confirming year two core funding in 2015/16.

It is recommended that Policy Committee agrees to the surplus budget of £2,734 in the financial year 2014/15 and £1,964 in the financial year 2015/16 is held as a contingency and, if not required, is carried forward into the financial year 2015/16.

#### 4.2 **Legal Implications –**

Those organisations recommended to receive an award of funding will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Council.

The agreement will establish the terms and conditions for receipt of the funding, such as requirement to provide progress reports to enable the Council to monitor implementation of the Delivery Plan and achievement of the proposed outputs and outcomes.

#### 4.3 **Contribution to Corporate Priorities –**

The applications awarded core funding cover a wide range of services which contribute to the Council's priority to work with communities by providing support for community based groups to undertake initiatives at improving their local community.

#### 4.4 **Risk Management –**

Performance monitoring will be on-going to ensure that the recipients of the funding are delivering and meeting the terms and conditions stated in the funding agreement, and if necessary, appropriate action will be taken to address matters of concern.

#### 5. **Consultations with Others –**

Financial and Democratic Services

#### 6. **Access to Information: Background Documents –**

Application Form, Financial Appraisal report and Appraisal Form for all applicants

#### 7. **Author of the Report –**

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION** – as regards Appendices A, B and C which are exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 (financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council) of the Council's Access to Information Rules and Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## AGENDA ITEM \$5

Sharon Sunter, Economic Development Manager  
Telephone: 01756 706213  
E-mail: [ssunter@cravendc.gov.uk](mailto:ssunter@cravendc.gov.uk)

### 8. **Appendices -**

Appendix A – Minutes of the Community Grants Sub-Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Appendix B – Applications not awarded core funding

Appendix C – Applications awarded core funding