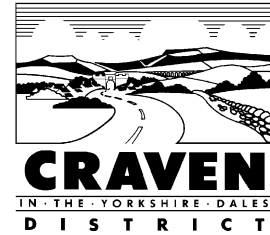


Policy Committee – 17th June 2014

SMALL AND MEDIUM COMMUNITY GRANTS – CRITERIA



Report of Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration

Ward(s) affected: All

1. **Purpose of Report** –

To adopt the proposed revisions to the criteria and assessment framework for the award of funding under the Council's Small and Medium Community Grants Programme as agreed by the Community Grants Sub-Committee on 17th March 2014.

2. **Recommendations** –

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Adopt the proposed revisions to the criteria and assessment framework for the award of small and medium community grants as agreed by the Community Grants Sub-Committee and as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Give authorisation for applications received from 1st April 2014 to be assessed in accordance with the revised criteria.

3. **Background** –

- 3.1 As at Minute CG.61/13-14, the Community Grants Sub-Committee resolved that the proposed revisions to the criteria, assessment and scoring framework used in consideration of applications for funding under the Council's Small and Medium Community Grants Scheme are referred for adoption to the Policy Committee.
- 3.2 The Scheme was established to help local community groups to deliver projects which would benefit the local community. Funding is currently provided at two levels:
 - Small grants from £100 to £500 for either capital or revenue purposes. These grants can be for up to 100% of the total project costs
 - Medium grants from £501 to £1,000 for either capital or revenue purposes. These grants can be up to 50% of the total project costs

There are currently no prescribed criteria of what activities will be considered for grant funding, only that the applicant must demonstrate that the organisation's activities contribute to the delivery of the current Council priorities. The current criterion was last updated in March 2012, to reflect changes to the Council Plan.

- 3.3 The purpose of revisiting the current criterion is to:
- a) Provide applicants with more guidance on the type of activity the Council is looking to support
 - b) Encourage applicants to explore all sources of potential funding, and give a clear indication that the Council would like to see its funding being used to help secure funding from other sources
 - c) Gain a better understanding of the added benefit that the Council's funding will have, such as the number of new people using a facility, or number of new participants taking part in an activity
 - d) Enable the Council to be more effective in monitoring progress in order to identify potential problems early, and thereby be in a better position to offer assistance to the applicant sooner
- 3.4 As at Minute POL.563/13-14, Policy Committee also authorised the Director of Services to seek expressions of interest from organisations to administer the Council's small and medium community grants scheme from 2015/16. The criteria and assessment framework will form part of the guidance advice to be provided to potential bidders.
- 3.5 The proposed revisions to the criteria and assessment framework, incorporating the amendments agreed by the Community Grants Sub-Committee are attached at Appendix A.

Implications

4.1 Financial and Value for Money (vfm) Implications –

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

A budget of £16,000 has been included within the revenue estimates for 2014/15 to fund awards made by the Council under its Small and Medium Community Grants Scheme.

4.2 Legal Implications –

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

All organisations awarded funding are required to enter into a funding agreement with the Council. The role of the agreement is to 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 project and achievement of the proposed outputs.

4.3 Contribution to Corporate Priorities –

The provision of small and medium grants contributes to the delivery of the Council's priority to work with communities by providing support for community based groups to undertake initiatives aimed 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. Regular progress reports will be presented to the Community Grants Sub-Committee.

5. **Consultations with Others –**

None

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

None

7. **Author of the Report –**

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8. **Appendices -**

Appendix A(1) – Proposed Revisions to the Criteria and Assessment Framework for the Small and Medium Community Grants Scheme

Appendix A(2) – Proposed Revised Scoring Framework for Community Grants