



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Project Grants
Date:	10 December 2008
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 3525

Relevant Background Information

The Grant Aid Policy 'A Guide to Grant Aid for Community Organisations' was agreed by Council in January 2004. One of the six grant types contained within the Policy is a Community Development Project Grant which allows an award of up to £500 for small scale community projects that contribute to the overarching aim of building the capacity of local people. Specifically projects which:

- Develop the programme of a community building
- Enable new community groups to become established
- Contribute to the organisational costs of community projects
- Support training courses for Committees/Volunteers

At the Client Services Committee on 18 June 2002 it was agreed that the maximum amount that could be approved to a Community Group in any financial year under the delegated authority of the Director was £500. In order to allow Christmas Community Chest applications in the same annual period to be approved under delegated authority, it is therefore necessary to bring all Community Development Project Grant proposed allocations to Committee for approval.

The Development Committee 11 June 2008 approved an allocation of £31,936 within this grant aid category in relation to applications received 1 March 2008. The annual budget available for this financial year is £55,120 leaving a balance of £23,184 available for this application round.

Key Issues

A total of forty Project Grant applications were received by the submission date of 1 October 2008. Thirty six have been recommended, and the proposed allocations have a cumulative total amount of £18,000. These are listed at **Appendix 1** Four applications are recommended for rejection for the reasons listed at **Appendix 2**.

Grants have been assessed within current agreed eligibility criteria, and there is no equality or environmental implications. Where possible, it is intended that Development staff will offer support to those groups not recommended for funding in order to assist them to improve practice and reapply for grant aid support at a later stage.

Resource Implications

Funding to the amount of £23,184 remains within in the current grant aid budget in regard to this grant category.

There is no additional staff resource required other than those normally deployed in the administration and assessment of this grant category.

Recommendations

Members are requested to

- Consider and approve the recommendations in respect of Community Development Project Grants as attached at Appendix A and B.
- Members are asked to note that the recommendation in relation to Community Development Project Grant application number 1058 is subject to specific assurances

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: applications recommended for grant approval
Appendix 2: applications recommended for grant refusal

APPENDIX A: RECOMMENDATION FOR GRANT APPROVAL

GROUP NAME	APP NO	REQUESTED	RECOMMENDED
NORTH			
Ardoyne Focus Group	1059	£550	£500
Club Oige Mhachaire Bothain	1039	£600	£500
Docksiders Senior Mens Group	1050	£500	£500
Donegall Park Avenue Seniors	1048	£500	£500
Friends of Clifton House	1040	£500	£500
Jennymount Community Association	1061	£500	£500
Midland Art Club	1046	£500	£500
Midland Senior Citizens Club	1047	£500	£500
North Belfast Cultural Society	1066	£500	£500
Shared History Interpretive Project	1051	£500	£500
Small Steps Adult Education Group	1058	£500	£500
St. Mary's Ladies Group	1045	£500	£500
St. Silas Senior Citizens Club	1056	£500	£500
Time 4 U	1063	£500	£500
Womens Arts & Crafts	1057	£500	£500
St. Kevins Senior Citizens Group	1052	£500	£500
Sub Total		£8,150	£8,000
SOUTH			
An Droichead	1072	£500	£500
Men Utd	1064	£500	£500
Womens Information Group	1075	£500	£500
Sub Total		£1,500	£1,500
EAST			
East Belfast Community Health Workers	1076	£500	£500
Sub Total		£500	£500
WEST			
An Munia Tober (Childrens)	1070	£500	£500
An Munia Tober (Afterschools)	1068	£500	£500
An Munia Tober (Health Outreach)	1071	£500	£500
Blackie Community Groups Association	1044	£500	£500
Conway Senior Citizens	1049	£500	£500
Corpus Christi Services	1043	£650	£500
Falls Womens Centre	1067	£500	£500
Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum	1074	£500	£500
Habinteg Pensioners Group	1042	£500	£500
Hannahstown Seniors Group	1054	£500	£500
Hannahstown Community Ass	1060	£800	£500
Highfield Mother & Toddlers	1062	£500	£500
Tearman Fold Tenants Association	1041	£500	£500
Townsend Street Lunch Club	1055	£500	£500
Upper Springfield Development Company	1065	£500	£500
Upper Springfield Community Health Workers	1077	£500	£500
Sub Total		£8,450	£8,000
TOTAL		£18,600	£18,000

**APPENDIX B: RECOMMENDATION
FOR GRANT REFUSAL**

APPENDIX B: RECOMMENDATION FOR GRANT REFUSAL			
NORTH			
The Hub Community Resource Centre	1069	£500	No Evidence of Financial Systems or AGM. No Declaration of Compliance
Whitewell Transformation Project	1038	£500	Application Withdrawn
SOUTH			
Retired Senior Volunteer Programme	1073	£500	Incomplete Application
WEST			
West Belfast Senior Citizens Forum	1053	£500	Application Withdrawn