



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Development Project Grants
Date:	9 December 2009
Reporting Officer:	Tim Husbands Acting Director of Development ext 1400
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 18 June 2002, it was agreed that the maximum amount which 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.

Applications for Project Grants are invited twice a year in March and in October. The Development Committee of 10 June 2009 approved an allocation of £41,250 within this grant aid category in relation to applications received 1 March 2009.

This paper makes recommendations for those applications received in October 2009.

Key Issues

A total of 46 Project Grant applications were received by the submission date of 1 October 2009. Forty two have been recommended and the proposed allocations have a cumulative total amount of £20,714.64. 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 are no equality or environmental implications.

It is intended that, where possible, Development staff will offer support to those groups not recommended for funding. This support will assist them in improving practice when reapplying for grant aid support at a later stage.

Resource Implications

Funding to the amount of £20,715 is available within the current grant aid budget in regard to this grant category.

No additional staff resources are required other than those normally deployed in the administration and assessment of this grant category.

Recommendations

Members are requested to approve the recommendations in respect of Community Development Project Grants as attached at Appendix A and B.

Decision Tracking

Further to approval the Community Development Project Grants will be paid as recommended.

Timeline: 18 January 2010

Contact Officer: Catherine Taggart

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: List of all Project Grant Applications

Appendix 2: Applications not recommended for grants.