



Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Community Development Project Grants

Date: 9 June 2010

Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, 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 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.

Key Issues

A total of 85 applications were received by the submission date 1 March 2010.

Seventy six have been recommended with a cumulative total amount of £37,975. These are listed at Appendix 1. Eight applications are recommended for rejection with the reasons listed at Appendix 2.

In line with the decision of the 9 December 2009, Development Committee

consideration of application number 1679 (Joanmount Open Door) is being held pending the outcome of the current review by Legal Services in regard to Council funding of faith/ religious organisations.

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

The cumulative total of the funding recommendations is £37,975 which is permissible within the 2010/11 budget allocation of £56,822 to this grant category.

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

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to approve the recommendations in respect of Community Development Project Grants as attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

Decision Tracking

Recommended action to be completed by 16 July 2010 by Catherine Taggart