



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Services Grant Aid Programme 2011/12
Date:	6 December 2010
Reporting Officer:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Grant Aid Policy 'A Guide to Grant Aid for Community Organisations' was agreed by Council January 2004. One of the six grant types within the Policy is a Community Development Project Grant which allows an award of up to £500 for small scale community development projects that contribute to the overarching aim of building the capacity of local people. Specifically projects which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop the programme of a community building- Enable new community groups to become established- Contribute to the organisational costs of community projects- Support training for committees/ volunteers
1.2	<p>There are two open calls in each financial year these being 1 March and 1 October. If recommendations in terms of 1 October call exceed budget then priority is given to those applications from organisations not in receipt of award 1 March.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>A total of 60 applications have been received by the submission date of 1 October 2010 of which 21 are from organisations who successfully completed in the first grant opened in March 2010.</p>

2.2	As the potential grant allocation would exceed budget only recommendations for those 39 applications received from organisations who have not yet received a Community Development Project Grant are being brought to Committee for consideration at this time.
2.3	An end of year review of all grant budgets will indicate if funding might be available for the remaining 21 applications. If funds permit, further recommendations in relation to these will be brought to February 2011 Committee.
2.4	Grants have been assessed within current agreed eligibility criteria and there are no environmental implications.
2.5	Where possible it is intended that development staff will offer support to those groups not recommended for funding (Appendix 2) in order to assist them to improve practice and reapply for grant aid support at a later stage.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The total available budget for the CDPG category for this financial year is £56,822.
3.2	The first open call in March resulted in commitments totalling £37,975 leaving a balance of £18,847 available for allocation to successful applications in this second call.
3.3	The cumulative total of the recommendations presented in Appendix 1 is £14,879 leaving a balance of £3,968
3.4	There is no additional staff resource required other than those normally deployed in the administration and assessment of this grant category.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality or good relations considerations

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

6	Decision Tracking
Recommended action to be completed by 14 January 2011 by Catherine Taggart.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CDPG Community Development Project Grant	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Projects recommended for Grant Funding Appendix 2: Applications recommended for Refusal	