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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | Capacity Building Grant 2011/12 – Lower North Belfast Area |
| Date: | 25 October 2011 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officers: | Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525 |

| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
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| 1.1 | The aim of the Capacity Building Grant is to build capacity at a local level. The programme enables community support organisations to build the skills and knowledge of community groups and local people. Capacity building work is development work that strengthens the ability of community groups to build their structures, systems, people and skills. |
| 1.2 | The Development Committee 9 June 2010 approved awards of this grant to 18 community support organisations across the city for the period 2010/11. The 22 February 2011 Committee extended these awards for a further year and the 27 September 2011 Committee agreed to further extend these awards for the period 2012/13. |
| 1.3 | This extension was to support the planned review of BCC grant across a number of programme areas including the capacity building grant. The strategic environment for review was set out to Committee 27 September 2011 in the report 'Departmental Grant Aid 2012/13'. Specifically our emerging Community Development Strategy, the preliminary work on a Neighbourhood Assets Strategy and the joint project with DSD to review the way in which Community Development / Infrastructure services are supported in the city, all of which will impact on the service grant aid programme. Planning during this interim year will therefore allow us to better integrate and improve our grant investment in order to ensure that the best possible impact is made with the funds administered. It will also ensure a greater focus on delivery against targeted outcomes at both a city and neighbourhood level. |
| 1.4 | The new programme is likely to result in new requirements being placed on applicant organisations at the time of open call scheduled for autumn 2012. |

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| | <p>In preparation for this our staff will work with all current recipient organisations, including any approved organisations in lower north, to support them to build their capacity in regard to any revised programme. The revised criteria will apply from April 2013.</p> |
| 1.5 | <p>One of the community support organisations funded under the original cohort of capacity grants went into liquidation during 2010/11. In terms of capacity support, this has left a gap in the lower north area of the city. At 22 February 2011 Committee Members commented on this gap and requested that action be taken by officers to address the issue.</p> |
| 1.6 | <p>An open call has therefore been implemented in regard to this grant which was ring fenced for provision in lower north Belfast for the period November 2011/ March 2012.</p> |
| 1.7 | <p>As per normal requirements, applicants were required to demonstrate that they meet all eligibility criteria as per the open call in January 2010 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <u>Community Based Organisation</u>: Applicants must be based in a recognised community serving a well defined geographical area – <u>Recognised Organisations</u>: Applicants must be able to demonstrate they are effectively managed (as defined by BCC) and compliant with Council's grant aid policy – <u>Membership Support</u>: Applicants must have an appropriate membership base of active participative organisations. To this end applicants must be able to demonstrate ongoing working relationships and a track record of capacity building work with membership groups. – <u>Building Capacity</u>: Applicant must demonstrate their understanding of and commitment to building capacity appropriate to their community. This will be reflected in the track record of the applicants and in the programme of work offered for the period under consideration. – <u>Programme of Work</u>: Applicants must set out the planned programme of work. This will include aims, objectives, proposed outcomes, and impact. The programme must be costed, illustrating value for money, leverage and additionality |
| 1.8 | <p>Following the closing date of 8 September 2011, three applications have been received. As with the previous cohort, these applications were assessed by Juniper Consulting. Groups must meet the threshold score of 130 marks to be recommended for funding and recommendations have been calculated (for the 5 month award period) as follows:</p> <p>Band A (scoring 160-200): attract a maximum grant of £20,693 (5mths pro rata) Band B (scoring 140-159): attract a maximum grant of £13,795 (5mths pro rata) Band C (scoring 130-139): attract a maximum grant of £11,496 (5mths pro rata)</p> |
| 1.9 | <p>Summary score sheets for each of the applicant organisations have been attached at appendix 3.</p> |

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| 2 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | <p>Two applications have been recommended for funding and are detailed at Appendix 1. Members will note the small marking differential which reflects differing strengths and weaknesses across the scoring categories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In terms of application 2062, areas for improvement highlighted by assessment relate to the organisation's proven track record in programme delivery. - In regard to application 2063, the noted areas for improvement relate to organisational governance and documentation of proposed programme of improvement. |
| 2.2 | It is the officer's recommendation that, given both organisations meet the baseline score and due to the small marking differential, both organisations are funded. |
| 2.3 | The awards, if agreed, will be for the period 1 st November 2011 to 31 st March 2012 with a possibility of extension for the 2012/13 financial year subject to the submission of relevant monitoring returns and programme of work. |
| 2.4 | Any successful organisation will be added to the officer support programme for capacity grant recipients in preparation for the new service grant support from April 2013. |
| 2.5 | One application has been recommended for rejection as it has scored below the threshold of 130 marks. This is detailed at appendix 2. |

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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | The allocation for capacity support in lower north has traditionally been £49,664. This is the annual award agreed in the budget estimates for 2011/12 and the basis of future revenue budget estimates for 2012/13. To qualify for this level of funding however the applicant must attain a Band A score. |
| 3.2 | The organisations recommended for funding do not qualify for Band A. The maximum annual allocation is therefore £33,109. If committee accept the recommendation at Band B grant levels, the 5month pro rata figure would be £13,795 per organisation. |
| 3.3 | This will result in a total 2011/12 commitment of £27,590 which is within budget estimates. |
| 3.4 | If both organisations meet the criteria for commitment in 2012/13, this would necessitate an over-committal in the capacity grant total budget by £16,554. |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 4.1 | None |

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| 5 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Accept the recommendations for approval of capacity grant (appendix 1)2. Accept the recommendation for rejection of capacity grant (appendix 2) |

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| 6 | Decision Tracking |
| Timeframe: 30 November 2011 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart | |

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| 8 | Documents Attached |
| Appendix 1: Recommendations for Capacity Grant November 2011 – March 2012 Appendix 2: Recommendation for Rejection Appendix 3: Summary Score Sheets | |

Appendix 1:

Recommendation for Funding

**Capacity Building Grant: 1st November 2011 – 31st March 2012
Lower North Belfast**

| Apps. No. | Name of Organisation | Total Marks Awarded | Amount Requested | Funding Recommended |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2062 | Small Steps Adult Education & Capacity Building | 150 | £26,693 | £13,795 |
| 2063 | Loughview Community Action Partnership | 151 | £26,513 | £13,795 |
| Total | | | | £27,590 |

Appendix 2:

Recommendations for Rejection

| Apps. No. | Name of Organisation | Amount Requested | Total Marks Awarded |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2061 | New Life Counselling | £26,000 | 125 |

Reasons for rejection

The application does not meet the minimum threshold of 130 marks.

This is a comprehensive application but does not meet criteria in terms of the following:

1. Geographical area targeted – Greater Belfast, Lisburn, Ballymena, Antrim and Newtownabbey.
2. Programme of work – this is in relation to the development of counselling services only.