



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Revenue Grants for Community Buildings: Restricted call 2014/15
Date:	18 February 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Committee will recall that in agreeing the deferred time-line for the introduction of the BCIP integrated grant programme, the VTC agreed that activity on BCIP should now be incorporated into the much wider programme of work that the council has begun as part of its preparation for the transfer of regeneration functions in 2015. The existing grants (for Revenue, Capacity Support and Advice and Information) would not therefore be changed in any substantive way thus reducing the need for an equality impact assessment or public consultation and that Community Services would work with the Central Grants Unit to ensure that its existing grant streams are ready for a full competitive open call across all of the new council area for the period 2015 to 2017.
1.2	To support this time-line, Development committee agreed (20th August 2013) that Community Services should extend our existing contracts to groups as an interim measure in order to bridge funding for the community and voluntary sector during the 2014/15 period.
1.3	From discussions regarding this rolling forward of the existing large grant programmes, Legal Services advised that in order to mitigate the possibility of any challenge to Council on the grounds of openness and transparency, committee should consider offering an additional £50,000 fund to new groups (or groups with new build) under its Revenue Grant; and allocate a further £50,000 for a targeted programme of Development Support.
1.4	The resource has subsequently been secured and this paper outlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recommendations for funding for the restricted Revenue grant extension for 2014/15. – Proposals for a future paper on the Development Support programme.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Revenue Grant Restricted Call 2014/15</u> The Revenue Grant for Community Buildings was introduced in 2004. Priority within this grant type was allocated to areas of greatest social need whilst endeavouring to ensure balanced provision throughout the City. Within this category of funding Council was endeavouring to award funding towards running costs for community buildings. Precedence is given to neighbourhood groups that can demonstrate a broad based programme of activity. The size of the building, programme content, throughput and current running costs will determine the amount of running costs that can be awarded.</p>
2.2	<p>The restricted open call was limited to applications from new groups who have acquired a building since the last open call in 2010.</p>
2.3	<p>Application to the restricted revenue open call closed on Friday 6th December 2013 with 9 applications received.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Principles of application process</u> Organisations submit a funding application including supporting documentation such as governing documents, annual reports, financial statements, policy documents, centre programme, targeted groups, geographical focus etc. The process involves an intensive staff resource input to assess applications against the grant criterion and includes site visits.</p>
2.5	<p>Applications from Community Organisations operating in the same geographical area are subject to assessment in relation to potential duplication of programme and target groups. Funding awards are traditionally allocated on the basis of grade 1, 2 and 3 awards.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Level of applications</u> Of the 9 applications received, 3 were considered ineligible as they are already in receipt of Revenue funding (2) or Capacity Building Grant (1).</p>
2.7	<p>Two expressions of interest have also been received from organisations who do not meet the specific criteria (one of these has also submitted an application).</p>
2.8	<p>A total of six applications have been assessed against the agreed criteria and the recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.9	<p>The cumulative total amount requested by the 2014/15 cohort of applications is £93,876 against a total available budget for the restricted open call of £50,000.</p>
2.10	<p>The proposed allocation of funding is consistent with the methodology adopted in the last open call (2010) i.e. an equal amount of £7,231 to the higher graded applicants and under £5,000 to the lower graded applicants.</p>
2.11	<p>Committee should note that a further full open call for applications to the revenue grant fund will open in summer 2015 as part of the 2015/17 Community Development Grant Programme.</p>
2.12	<p><u>Development Support programme 2014/15</u> In October 2013, committee agreed a range of projects as a result of the DSD offer of an additional allocation of £467,000 funding under our Community Support Programme grant 2013/14. This funding was fully dependent on BCC's</p>

	ability to allocate and fully expend the monies within the current financial year.
2.13	Given that during the summer months we will be going to an open call for our larger Community Development Grants and, like other funders, we are moving to an outcomes-based approach which will include updated application and monitoring processes, committee agreed that we should use some of the funding to help community groups prepare for these changes and to help Community Services be better prepared to provide the technical and capacity support to the sector.
2.14	We have therefore designed and commissioned a training support programme for the sector which will build on our own Community Development toolkit. We have recruited 5 training providers to deliver a range of training workshops across the city (7 workshops in each part of the city East, North, South, West and Shankill) and places will be open to community organisations across Belfast and to those which fall within our new extended city boundaries from Lisburn, Castlereagh and North Down. The workshops will be delivered primarily in our community centres and in centres we support. A timetable is being finalised but the training will be delivered between the 17th February and 31st March 2014.
2.15	There is an article in the current edition of City Matters and a leaflet will be sent out to all groups on our database and via local fora and NRPs. There is also a dedicated webpage which contains all the relevant information and this will be updated regularly. http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/CommunitySupportPlan/communitysectortraining.aspx
2.16	This is an opportunity for community organisations to get some free support and build their capacity to deal with the opportunities and challenges resulting from LGR and our open call for grants for the 2015-17 period. We want to ensure maximum participation in these courses and would therefore welcome proactive support from elected members to promote the workshops in your respective areas.
2.17	The workshops are: <u>Collaborative Working and Service Planning</u> A one day workshop, delivered by Interaction Institute for Social Change on working collaboratively with others to design and deliver services. <u>Strategic and business planning for community groups</u> A one day workshop focussing on developing a strategic and business plan for community groups-delivered by NICVA. <u>Developing Outcomes Framework and Measuring Service Impact</u> This one day workshop delivered by Community Evaluation NI, will provide participants with an understanding of what outcomes and indicators are and how these can be used to measure and evaluate the impact of services. <u>Governance and Risk Management</u> A one day workshop delivered by NICVA focusing on governance structures in relation to the recent charity guidelines, members' roles and responsibilities, understanding and mitigating risk.

	<p><u>Financial Management</u> This one day workshop includes financial reporting, management and record keeping, with a focus on the financial information required by funders- delivered by Sector Matters</p> <p><u>Investment Readiness</u> This one day workshop delivered by Sector Matters focuses on organisation financial sustainability and diversifying income sources.</p> <p><u>Collaborative Planning in Neighbourhoods</u> Is a two day workshop designed and delivered by Community Places. The workshop will provide key practices and a toolkit to help organisations work more collaboratively with others to develop neighbourhood plans</p>
2.18	Given this level of dedicated capacity support and contact with the sector in the coming weeks, officers suggest that we defer the full design of the ongoing Development Support programme so we can be informed by the emerging needs of the sector and potential future funding applicants.
2.19	If committee are agreeable, officers will bring a paper to the April meeting of committee outlining options for a future programme.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no resource implications as allocation of funding does not exceed the total approved budget of £100,000.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resources implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u> There are no related implications</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Committee notes the content of this report and agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recommendations for Revenue Grant for Community Buildings 2014/15 (Appendix 1) - The recommendations for rejection of Revenue Grant for Community Buildings 2014/15 (Appendix 1) - To note the arrangements and content of the planned Community Sector Support Programme (Feb/March 2014) - To accept a future report outlining options for future additional targeted Development Support programme.

6	Decision Tracking
Further to agreement and ratification, organisations will be informed whether or not they have been recommended for and awarded funding by letter. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Council.	

Timeline: April 2014

Reporting Officer: Cate Taggart

7	Key to Abbreviations
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BCIP	Belfast Community Investment Programme
VTC	Voluntary Transition Committee

8	Documents Attached
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Appendix 1: Recommendations for Revenue Grant for Community Buildings 2014/15 & Recommendations for Rejections for Revenue Grant for Community Buildings 2014/15
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Appendix 1

Recommendations for Revenue Grant for Community Buildings

Name of Organisation	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Romanian/Roma Community Association NI	£17,280.00	£7,231.00

Recommendations for Rejection of Funding

Name of Organisation	Amount Requested	Reason for Rejection
Lower Falls Newstart Project	£37,594.01	The organisation does not meet the specific assessment criteria of a 'Broad Based Programme' – targeting a range of age groups (Children and young people, adults, senior citizens) with a broad range of activities (social, recreational, educational). Not a new organisation with a new building – established in 1989
Artillery Youth Club	£6,450.00	The organisation does not meet the specific assessment criteria of a 'Broad Based Programme' – targeting a range of age groups (children and young people, adults and senior citizens) with a broad range of activities (social, recreational, educational). Not a new group with a new building – established 1997
Ardoyne Association	£8,712.00	Specific criteria for revenue funding targets new groups who have acquired a building since the last open call for application in 2010. The Organisation have not acquired their building since 2010 (acquired 1994) and are not a new group (established in 1978).
Cumann Culthura Mhic Reachtain	£10,620.	Specific criteria for revenue funding targets groups who have acquired a building since the last open call for application in 2010. The Organisation have not acquired their building since 2010 (acquired in 2004). In addition the Organisation has not complied with its governing document relating to AGM quorum.
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	£13,220.	Specific criteria for revenue funding targets new groups who have acquired a building since the last open call for application in 2010. The Organisation has not acquired their building since 2010 (acquired in 2003)

		and are not a new group – (established in 2002).
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