



13 October 2015

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

GRANT AID INNOVATION FUND 2015/16 (YOUTH)

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the award of grant aid to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations through the Innovation Fund.

Information and Advice

2. At the meeting in March 2015 the Grant Aid Sub-Committee agreed that £50,000 per year from the £1.75 million grant aid budget be set aside for an "Innovation Fund". In the first year of the fund, members agreed that the theme in 2015/16 should be **Youth**.
3. The Innovation fund has been created to:
 - Facilitate new and innovative ways of working
 - Support projects requiring one-off investment – Kick Start funding
4. The first year of the innovation fund seeks to support **Youth Projects** which provide positive activities for young people between the ages of 10-19 (up to 25 years in respect of young people with disabilities).

Fund Application Process

5. The total fund for 2015/16 is £50,000; applications were sought for grants with a maximum value of £10,000. An open application round was launched on 19 June 2015 and closed on 31 August 2015.
6. The opportunity to apply for funding was widely promoted and included:- press releases, use of the County Councils website and social media channels, bulletins through infrastructure providers/Youth organisations and a briefing note for all County Councillors.
7. A total of 29 applications were received by the closing date with a combined value of £212,090 – over 4 times the value of the available fund.
8. In addition to the key areas detailed at paragraph 3 above the application form had 10 sections which were used to assess the proposals, examples of areas considered included:
 - **Innovation:** whether the project will test new / creative approaches or solutions or is a kick-start new project
 - **Sustainability:** whether the project can be sustained after the funding ends
 - **Benefits:** the short term benefits that will occur during the life of the project; and the anticipated legacy, are they clear and substantial?

- **Other funding & support:** levels of other funding or support committed to the work, do the costings represent good value?
- **Deliverability:** that young people are involved in the design, delivery and management of the project; that the project objectives are achievable given the capacity and capability of the organisation and the available resources.

9. Members are asked to consider the recommendations listed in Appendix 1 of this report. A total of 13 applications are proposed for approval with a combined value of £50,000.
10. A number of the proposals not recommended for support were identified as having the potential to be supported through other funding streams. It is proposed that the Community & Voluntary Sector Team contact these organisations to provide detailed feedback and offer support where required. Members will be provided with an update on this work at a future meeting.

Other Options Considered

11. All the applications received have undergone assessment and moderation as agreed through the Corporate 3 Year Grant Aid Programme by officers.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The role of the Voluntary & Community Sector of Nottinghamshire play a vital role in the well-being of County residents and the grants awarded will deliver a range of innovative Youth projects across the County.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

14. Members are asked to:
 - 1) Approve £50,000 grant aid to 13 organisations listed in appendix 1 of this report.
 - 2) Agree that practical support through the Community & Voluntary Sector Team is offered to the organisations not recommended for Grant Aid.

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Constitutional Comments (SMG 24/09/2015)

The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 17/09/15)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None'

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- 'All'

