

Meeting CABINET

date 27 July 2011

agenda item number 10

## REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PROPERTY

### Short Break Capital Grant 2011-12

#### Purpose of report

1. To seek approval from Cabinet for allocation of the ring fenced Short Break Capital Grant of £1,090,313 to be spent by 31 March 2012.
2. Cabinet has delegated authority to approve the allocations of the ring fenced Short Break Capital Grant 2011-2012 in the following ways:
  - (1) small grants to be made available for short breaks providers, activity services, play and youth and sports clubs across the County. The grants will be awarded by a panel. The panel will have parents and disabled young people represented.
  - (2) the Grant is used to complete the existing short break projects which overran due to planning delays and a builder going into liquidation.
  - (3) the Grant will support the on-going Big House redevelopment project.

#### Information and advice

##### Background

3. Nottinghamshire has been a Short Breaks Pathfinder local area from April 2008 – March 2011. The funding ended in March 2011. On 23 May we were notified that a capital grant had been awarded to all local authorities, with Nottinghamshire's Grant as stated above. The Grant has to be used on capital projects that enhance short breaks for disabled children and have to be completed by March 2012.
4. The project team who worked on the Short Breaks Pathfinder Project have managed the capital spend and previous capital funding was used to develop and enhance services to disabled children and young people including:

- Contract Care Adaptations x 3
  - Caudwell House Multimedia Room
  - Enhanced Changing Facilities in 7 Leisure Centres
  - Robin Hood Activity Centre
  - Adapted Sailing Boats and Canoes
  - Specialist Equipment including Specialist Wheel Chairs for Sports Clubs
  - Sensory Rooms and Mobile Sensory Equipment.
5. It is proposed that this 2011-2012 funding will be used as follows:
- small grants will be made available for short break providers, activity services, sports clubs, play and youth services. The grants will be awarded by a panel. The panel will include parents and disabled young people represented
  - to complete the existing short break projects including the sensory pavilion at Minster View and Caudwell House which overran due to planning delays and the contract cares adaptations which were delayed due to a builder going into liquidation
  - support the on-going Big House redevelopment project.

### **Public Engagement Policy**

6. The Short Breaks Pathfinder Project has supported the establishment of several parent forums and groups and the development of services is based on consultation with disabled children and young people. Parents and disabled young people will be part of the panel awarding grants.

### **Statutory and policy implications**

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

### **Human Resources implications**

8. The small grants scheme will be managed by the existing Short Breaks Project team.

### **Financial implications**

9. This is a Capital Grant which is ring fenced for the development of short breaks and has to be used by 31 March 2012. All the small grant applications will need to demonstrate that there will be no on-going revenue costs to NCC post April 2012 and that all building work will be completed or equipment received by 31 March 2012.

## **Equal opportunities implications**

10. This project will enhance opportunities for disabled children and young people to make a choice to participate and experience a range of play, leisure and sports activities, whilst carers have an opportunity to take a break from the caring role, within or close to their community.

## **Implications for service users**

11. In a consultation with disabled children and young people they said they wanted to have opportunities to do what other children and young people do. Parents wanted to have more ordinary family lives.

## **Human Rights Act implications**

12. This project will enhance opportunities for disabled children and young people to make a choice to participate and experience a range of play, leisure and sports activities whilst carers have an opportunity to take a break from the caring role, within or close to their community.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

13. That the ring fenced Short Break Capital Grant 2011-2012 is used in the following ways:
  - (1) small grants to be made available for short breaks providers, activity services, play and youth and sports clubs across the County. The grants will be awarded by a panel. The panel will have parents and disabled young people represented.
  - (2) the Grant is used to complete the existing short break projects which overran due to planning delays and a builder going into liquidation.
  - (3) the Grant will support the on-going Big House redevelopment project.

## **COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

## **COUNCILLOR REG ADAIR**

Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

## **Reasons for recommendation**

14. The Capital Grant is ring fenced for the development of Short Breaks Services for disabled children and young people and has to be spent by March 2012. This makes:
  - a large building project difficult to be achieved within time scale
  - smaller grants for specialist equipment or small builds more likely to be achieved in the time frame thereby reducing risk of underspend

- small grants across the County enhance services to a wide range of service users and as part of the grant agreement they are responsible for any on-going maintenance and any revenue cost
- smaller wide spread community based projects responds to the consultation of parents and disabled children and young people.

#### **Other options considered**

15. Notification of this Grant was received by the Short Breaks Project on 23 May 2011 and has to be spent by 31 March 2012. Given the time frame available the recommendations proposed are the most appropriate way of using the grant to enhance services for disabled children, young people and their families.

#### **Legal Services' comments (LM/08.07/11)**

16. Cabinet has delegated authority under the Scheme of Delegation to approve the recommendation in the report.

#### **Financial comments of the Service Director – Finance (NDR)**

17. The financial implications are summarised in paragraph 9 of the report.

#### **Background papers available for inspection**

The Short Breaks Pathfinder Project logged an Equality Impact Assessment which could be refreshed to ensure to reflect the new capital grant. Consultation reports are available if required.

#### **Electoral division(s) affected**

Nottinghamshire

M19C2833