

	THE LEADER 15 APRIL 2011	
	Key Decision	NO
Corporate Priority The Provision of Decent Housing	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	The Leader Councillor Tom Fox
	Date of Decision/ Referral to O&S	15 April 2011
	Deadline for call-in 5.00pm	20 April 2011
	Implementation Date (if no call-in)	21 April 2011

REPORT OF: Head of Environmental Services – 11/211

WARDS AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: HOUSING GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2011/2012

RECOMMENDATION (S):

This report recommends that housing grant assistance be awarded to support three projects. These are:

- Homeless Support Services – Winter Watch £22,200
- Homeless Support Services – Travel Resettlement Scheme £5750
- Homeless Support Services – Day Services £10,700

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

These services have been assessed against the way they help the Council meet our key priorities around Homeless Prevention as well as the value for money each service provides.

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

See Risk Matrix on Appendix 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations for funding approval for a number of housing grant requests made by third sector providers for 2011/12. The available budget is £38,650 (14% lower than the previous financial year).

2. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN

- 2.1 The key corporate objectives affected by this report are the provision of decent affordable housing and the prevention of homelessness.

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 3.1 The Housing Act 1996 s179 gives Local Authorities a duty to ensure that advice and assistance about homelessness and its prevention are available to any person in their area free of charge. This duty can be discharged by the local authority through external partners, which may include voluntary organisations.
- 3.2 Given the Council's own budgetary constraints, it is clearly important that the Council only grant funds services that support our own key strategic objectives. The Council also needs to ensure that it gets value for money from all services funded.
- 3.3 In order to have a clear control over outcomes and measure value for money, all housing grant funding approved is subject to a formal service level agreement which includes a requirement on the recipient organisation to evidence specific agreed outcomes. These outcomes support and contribute to the Council's homelessness prevention strategy.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 For reasons of equity and transparency, the opportunity to make applications for funding has this year been offered to all partner voluntary housing organisations operating in the Borough.
- 4.2 Applications were invited from organisations for initiatives that would help the Council meet its key strategic objectives around homelessness prevention.
- 4.3 In addition, all previous recipients of grant funding were consulted on the potential impact to their services of a 14% cut to the overall budget available.

5. ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This year funding applications have been received for a total of £55,126 to support five projects.
- 5.2 Appendix 1 of this report contains a brief description of each service, highlights the amount of grant assistance requested (and the amount paid last year) and includes recommendations and reasons for approval or rejection of each application.
- 5.3 This report recommends that housing grant assistance be awarded to support three projects. These are:
- Homeless Support Services – Winter Watch £22,200
 - Homeless Support Services – Resettlement Travel Scheme £5,750
 - Homeless Support Services – Day Services £10,700
- 5.4 It is recommended that the applications from Foundation Housing and Key House (formerly known as HARP) are refused.
- 5.5 It is important to note that through its Homelessness Strategy (using monies received through Homeless Prevention Grant, paid to the Council from Government), the Council supports a wide range of third sector partners.

These include:

CAB – Money and Benefits Advice
Foundation Housing – Time Out Youth Homeless Prevention Service
KeyHouse/Harp – Court Desk Scheme
SASH – Provision of emergency supported lodging for young people

Cabinet shall be asked to consider future levels of funding support for these organisations through the use of this Homeless Prevention grant in May this year, as part of Homelessness Strategy Review.

6. IMPLICATIONS

(a) Policy

- 6.1 This report raises no issues that are not within the Council's policy and budget framework.

(b) Legal

- 6.2 The authority to award grants to assist with homelessness and housing advice is derived from the Housing Act 1996.

(c) Financial

- 6.3 The financial implications are as detailed in the report.

- 6.4 There are no Staffing Implications, Planning Implications, Crime and Disorder Implications, Health and Safety implications, Environmental implications that arise from this report.



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Background Papers:

Please give details of all publicly accessible (non private) background papers applicable to the report.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT ANDREW ROWE VIA THE ABOVE DETAILS.

Appendix 1 – Funding Applications Assessment

Name of Service	Outline of Service	Strategic and Value for Money Assessment	Funding Received 10/11	Funding Requested 11/12	Funding Recommendation for 11/12
Homeless Support Services – Resettlement Travel Scheme	Scheme provides assistance for single homeless people with no connection to the Borough to be resettled to other areas of the UK	High strategic priority. Scheme enabled 56 households to be resettled last year	£5000	£5750	£5750
Homeless Support Services – Winter Watch	Scheme provides emergency accommodation for rough sleepers/single homeless people	High strategic priority. Scheme accommodated 104 households last year	£19,000	£22,200	£22,200
Homeless Support Services – Day Services	Service involves working on an ongoing basis with single homeless clients.	High strategic priority. Service worked with 156 clients last year, 67 of which had their homelessness prevented	Service funded in previous years through use of homelessness prevention grant (£13,161 last year)	£14,476	£10,700

Name of Service	Outline of Service	Strategic and Value for Money Assessment	Funding Received 10/11	Funding Requested 11/12	Funding Recommendation for 11/12
Foundation Housing _ Home Street Home Scheme	<p>Foundation provide a specialist youth homelessness prevention service called Time Out funded via Supporting People, SBC and NYCC.</p> <p>Payment of additional funds from this pot could support "Home Street Home" an additional project providing intervention work in schools.</p>	Youth homeless provision is currently subject to a wide ranging review of services by NYCC/Supporting People.	£7,940	£7,700	Nil
Key House (Formerly known as HARP)	Bid for funding to extend the provision of a telephone Money Advice Line currently being provided in the Hambleton District Council area.	This service duplicates the provision of free telephone advice that is already available elsewhere in the Borough.	Nil	£5000	Nil

Risk Matrix

Risk Ref	Date	Risk	Consequences	Mitigation	Current Risk Score	Target Score	Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer	Action Plan
1	01/04/11	The Council does not provide grants to voluntary organisations	The Council can only achieve its strategic priorities and statutory obligations with the help of our partners. If funding was not made available to assist them then many of the functions carried out would fall on the Borough Council.	Proposed provision of grants for priority services that give good value for money.	C3	A1	Andrew Rowe	Fund the voluntary organisations through grants as in previous years.
2	01/04/11	The Council does not get value for money from grants paid.	The Council must ensure that grant money is appropriately spent and that the projects funded meet strategic priorities.	All grant payments are subject to Service levels Agreements. Outcomes are subject to the Councils own BVPI requirements and included within statutory returns.	C3	A1	Andrew Rowe	Monitor the Service Level Agreements to ensure strategic priorities are being met.
3	01/04/11	Unsupported applications result in the closure of existing services or the folding of providers	The Council has limited resources and needs to ensure that grants paid fully contribute to meeting its strategic objectives. Grant applications have been assessed using a transparent strategic and value for money criteria.	The amount paid through this funding source is relatively low. Grant funding should be paid on the basis of value for money and not provider viability. CVS provide support to voluntary agencies regarding other funding streams.	C3	A1	Andrew Rowe	Grant funding is available from other sources, the one application that is unsupported did not receive a grant from this funding source last year either.

Glossary of Terms

Risk	An event which may prevent the Council achieving its objectives
Consequences	The outcome if the risk materialised
Mitigation	The processes and procedures that are in place to reduce the risk
Current Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score with the current mitigation measures in place
Corporate Objectives	An assessment of the Corporate Objectives that are affected by the risk identified.
Target Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score that the Council is aiming to achieve
Service Unit Manager	The Service Unit or Officer responsible for managing the risk
Action Plan	The proposed actions to be implemented in order to reduce the risk to the target score

Risk Scoring

Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
		A	B	C	D	E
	Likelihood					

Likelihood:

A = Very Low
 B = Not Likely
 C = Likely
 D = Very Likely
 E = Almost Certain

Impact

1 = Low
 2 = Minor
 3 = Medium
 4 = Major
 5 = Disaster