

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND RATE RELIEF COMMITTEE

5 DECEMBER 2006

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

PORTFOLIO LEADER: POLICY AND RESOURCES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise members of applications for financial assistance.
- 1.2 This report also includes a breakdown of the budget for 2006-07 and the amount available for general distribution.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members decide on the course of action regarding the award to Longford Primary School.
- 2.2 That each application be considered on its own merits.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 An approved budget of £30,960 is available for 2006-07 for general financial aid. Within this sum, £10,090 has previously been granted. This leaves a budget available for 2006-07 of £20,870.
- 3.2 There are two powers under which the Council may award grants, the first being Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the second being Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, under the power of well-being. The details of these are set out in Section 1 below.

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Section 1

Background

- 1.1 Members are reminded that Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, limits the amount of grant aid to, in general terms, contributions to:
- (a) the funds of any charitable body in furtherance of its work in the United Kingdom:
or
 - (b) the funds of any body which provides any public service (whether to the public at large or to any section of it) in the United Kingdom otherwise than for the purposes of gain: or
 - (c) any fund which is raised in connection with a particular event directly affecting persons resident in the United Kingdom on behalf of whom a public appeal for contributions has been made by the Lord Mayor of London or the chairman of a principal council or by a committee of which the Lord Mayor of London or the chairman of a principal council is a member.
- 1.2 Any body, to which aid in excess of £2,000 is made available, must notify to the authority, the use to which the aid has been put. In most cases, for the few organisations to which this applies, the requirement is covered by supplying to the authority copies of annual reports and accounts.
- 1.3 S.2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (2000 Act) has provided the Council with a power (the well being powers) to do anything which it considers likely to achieve:
- a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of their area,
 - b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of their area, and
 - c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.
- 1.4 This power enables the Council to give financial assistance to any organisation or individual providing a benefit for the whole or any part of the Council's area provided the Council considers it is likely to achieve any of the aims set out in paragraph 1.3
- 1.5 The 2000 Act requires the Council to have regard to its Community Strategy when exercising the well-being powers in that the aims and objectives of any organisation or individual requesting assistance must be compatible with the Council's Community Strategy.
- 1.6 Annex 1 shows new applications and Annex 2 deferred applications. There are no deferred applications on this occasion

Section 2

Details of Matters to be Considered

- 2.1 An award of £500 to Longford Primary has not been collected. Despite an invitation and a reminder telephone call to them before the presentation, no one attended and there has been no apology or explanation received to date.

The award was granted "To establish and maintain partnership links with a school in Datteln".

The letter advising successful applicants of their award states that The Council has made a decision that the grants made to voluntary bodies are presented by the Chairman of the Council, but only those organisations that attend be allowed their grant, except in circumstances where this would be unreasonable.

Therefore, it is open to members to decide to:

- a) Invite Longford Primary to the next presentation meeting or next Grant Aid Meeting.
- b) Post the cheque.
- c) Cancel the award.

- 2.2 Annex 3 is a copy for information of the Minutes of 5 September 2006 Cannock Chase Sports Council Meeting. Members had previously asked for regular reports on how the Sports Council distributes their award.

Section 3

Contribution to CHASE

This service contributes to CHASE by supporting local voluntary organisations and support groups. These can encompass all the objectives in CHASE either in whole or in part.

Section 4

Section 17 Implications

The Council is obliged to consider activities which may lead to a reduction in crime in the district. It is considered that the grant funding given to Cannock Chase Sports Council and other groups that provide facilities and activities within the district meets this obligation.

Section 5

Human Rights Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

Section 6

Data Protection Act Implications

When individuals are completing their application they are advised that the form will be in the public arena and their signature is authorisation that they are in agreement with this.

Section 7

Risk Management Implications

Risks associated with the process to grant financial assistance have been assessed and adequate controls found to be in place. Risks can be managed to an acceptable level.

Section 8

Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no applications from individuals to which the following paragraphs apply.
- 8.2 Where an application is received from an individual, only the well-being powers set out in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 are available.
- 8.3 In order to make such a grant, Members must consider whether the purpose for which the grant is requested is likely to achieve any or all of the following:
- (a) The promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of their area,
 - (b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of their area, or
 - (c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.
- 8.4 In addition, Members must consider who will benefit from the grant i.e. is it in relation to or for the benefit of:
- (a) the whole or any part of the District, or
 - (b) all or any persons resident or present in the District.

Section 9

Financial Implications

- 9.1 A budget of £30,960 is available for 2006-07 for general financial aid. Within this sum, £10,090 has previously been granted. This leaves a budget available for 2006-07 of £20,870.
- 9.2 Members should note that the amounts specified within the new applications for consideration as per Annex 1 total £12,840.50.
- 9.3 There are no deferred applications at Annex 2.

Section 10

Resource Implications

None.

Section 11

Conclusions

That the recommendation at paragraph 2 be approved.

Section 12

Background Papers

There are no background papers.

Annexes

Annex 1 – New Applications

Annex 2 – There are no Deferred Applications

Annex 3– Report from Cannock Chase Sports Council

ANNEX 1

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID 2006-07"A" LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

		<u>Application Amount</u>	<u>Previous Grant</u>	<u>External funding officer involvement</u>
A201	Cruse Bereavement Care	£300/£500	2002/3 £250	No
A202	1 st Blackfords Cub and Sea Scout Group	£900	2005/6 £1,000	No
A203	Staffordshire Regimental Assoc Hednesford Branch	£500	2004/5 £500	Extensive
A204	Slitting Mill Victory Hall Fund	£500	None	No
A205	Cannock Chase Advice Centre	£1000	2005/6 £1,000	Extensive
A206	Staffordshire Blind – Rugeley Social Section	£250	None	No
A207	8 th Cannock St. Barnabas Brownie & Guides	£350	None	No
A208	West Chadsmoor Senior Citizens Club	£500	2005/6 £500	Extensive
A209	Cannock Royal British Legion Club Limited	Not specified	None	No
A210	SCALE	£1,500	2005/6 £1,200	Extensive
A211	Cannock Chase Arts Council	£3,000	2005/6 £3,000	Limited
A212	Cannock Salvation Army Over 60's Club	£250	1999/00 £500	No
A213	Cannock Chase Sports Council	£3,000	2005/6 £3,000	Extensive
A214	Staffordshire Shark In-Line Hockey Club	£590.50	None	Extensive

ANNEX 2

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID 2006-07

"A" LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

DEFERRED APPLICATIONS

There are no Deferred Applications