

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**GRANT APPLICATIONS AND RATE RELIEF COMMITTEE**

**15 AUGUST 2006**

**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**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 each application be considered on its own merits.

**3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 A budget of £30,960 is available for 2006-07 for general financial aid. There is also £3,010 remaining from 2005-06 of which £1,000 has been committed for Hednesford War Memorial.
- 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 details of this are set out in paragraph 3.3. The second area is the Local Government Act 2000, under the power of well-being. The details of this are set out in Section 1.

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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 2000 Act has provided the Council with a new 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 3.5
- 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 Councils Community Strategy.
- 1.6 Annex 1 shows new application and Annex 2 deferred applications.

**Section 2**

**Details of Matters to be Considered**

- 2.1 Hednesford War Memorial was awarded £1,000 from 2005/6 budget and was to submit invoices for work carried out to the value of the award. So far we have only received and paid one invoice for £480. This leaves a balance of £520 still to be claimed.
- 2.2 Cannock Chase Sports Council – This application was deferred because members had concerns at the proportion of the grant used for secretarial expenses. Having made enquiries to the Sports Council, the Chairman replied by e-mail and said that there are no payments for secretarial services and that the new secretary Simon Davies is an employee of Cannock Chase District Council with no cost to the Sports Council. The Sports Council has extended their appreciation for the help that Simon Davies of the Sports Development Section is providing.

The situation is that the new secretary is not claiming any expenses (as shown in a copy of their Income and Expenditure Account for 2005-06 which accompanies their application form).

Also in the e-mail the Chairman states that at the moment, grant aid is £3,000 and the bulk of this goes to individual applicants. Currently the amount given to an individual is in the order of £150 per person and that they consider this distribution to be a minimal financial support given to individual local residents. They have therefore decided that they could not go higher given the number of qualifying applicants and have asked that the grant aid be increased by £3,000 to support clubs and organisations in the district.

Without this extra funding, they feel that they cannot financially support these organisations and feel that supporting organisations will have a more wide spread impact on the local community by promoting sporting activities in the district.

- 2.3 Victim Support Staffordshire had an award of £500 granted at the 6<sup>th</sup> December 05 meeting compared to the previous year, 2004-05, when they were awarded £2,000. A letter of thanks and a request for reconsideration of the decision for 2005-06 is attached at Annex 4. They have submitted an application for £2,500 for this year (A116 Annex 1). The committee still need to review their request at Annex 4 in conjunction with their new application at Annex 1.

**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 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.

8.4 There are no applications from individuals to which the above paragraphs apply.

**Section 9**

**Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The 2006-07 budget includes £30,960 available for distribution, plus £3,010 from 2005-06 of which £1,000 has already been committed and £2,010 was deferred for Chase Sports Council application.
- 9.2 Members should note that the amounts specified within the new applications for consideration as per Annex 1 totals £16,500.
- 9.3 The total of deferred applications at Annex 2 is £7,000.

**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 – Deferred Applications

Annex 3– Report from Community Link Stafford & District

Annex 4 – Victim Support Staffordshire

**ANNEX 1****APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID 2006-07****“A” LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

		<u>Application Amount</u>	<u>Previous Grant</u>	<u>External Funding Officer Support</u>
A101	St. Aidans Fellowship Club	£250	2003/4 £1,000	No
A102	Breathe Easy Cannock & Stafford	£700	2005/6 £600	Limited
A103	Chase Stags F.C.	£1000	2004/5 £300	Limited
A104	Norton Canes Community Link	£2,000	2005/6 £750	Extensive
A105	Longford Primary School	£500	None	No
A106	Young at Heart Social Group	£650	2005/6 £200	Limited
A107	Datteln - Cannock Miner's Club	£500	2005/6 £500	Limited
A108	Tackeroo F.C.	£2,000	None	No
A109	Peartree Community Group	£1,500	2004/6 £1,000	Extensive
A110	Rugeley Physically Handicapped	£500	1998/9 £500	No
A111	Chadsmoor Tapestry Group	£1,000	None	No
A112	Chetwynd Charity	£500/600	2005/6 £500	Limited
A113	Cyprus Veterans Foundation	£1,800	2005/6 £500	Limited
A114	Brereton Community Sports Club	£500	None	Extensive
A115	Vision	£500	None	No
A116	Victim Support Staffordshire	£2,500	2005/6 £500 (2004/5 £2,000)	Limited

**ANNEX 2**

**APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID 2006-07**

**"A" LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**DEFERRED APPLICATIONS**

		<u>Application Amount</u>	<u>Previous Grant</u>	<u>External Funding Officer Support</u>
A308	Cannock Chase Sports Council	£7,000	2004/5 £3,000	Extensive