

MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Monday 28 July 2014

Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Fullam, Hannaford, Leadbetter and Sutton

Also Present:

Principal Project Manager (Infrastructure Management & Delivery), City Arts and Events Manager, Senior Valuer and Principal Accountant Service (PM) and Assistant Democratic Services Officer

1 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 February 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

2 **CORE ARTS FUNDING FOR STRATEGIC ARTS ORGANISATIONS 2015/16**

Councillor Sutton declared a pecuniary interest and left the room.

The City Arts and Events Manager presented the report on the recommendations for major arts grants funding for 2015/16 for strategic arts organisations in Exeter following an open grant application round in Spring 2014.

An amendment to the report was highlighted – The Bikeshed Theatre had made a request for £15,000, not £10,000 as stated in the report.

A Member raised the issue of the possibility of further commercial diversification of the Phoenix so funds can be reinvested. It was noted that the Portfolio Holder Economy and Culture was looking at other ways to work with the Phoenix.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:

- (1) the level of funding for major grants as set out below, subject to final approval of budgets in early 2015 and the level of Government funding granted to the City Council be approved:

Organisation	2015/16 recommended
Exeter Phoenix	92,000
Exeter Northcott	62,500
Theatre Alibi	15,360
Bikeshed Theatre	10,000
Kaleider	8,000
Spacex	8,000
Double Elephant	10,000
Le Navet Bete	5,000
Sound Gallery	5,000
TOTAL	215,860

- (2) that funding for one year be granted to Spacex, Double Elephant, Le Navet Bete and Sound Gallery;

- (3) that three year funding be granted to those organisations who were successful in applying to the City Council and to Arts Council England's National Portfolio Funding three year fund 2015-2018 (Exeter Phoenix, Exeter Northcott Theatre, Theatre Alibi, Bikeshed Theatre and Kaleider), and that the Council make it explicit that it will not commit to maintaining the same level of funding throughout the period and any offer would be subject to budgets and monitoring; and
- (4) after the end of the three year period, the process would be further reviewed and these organisations would need to reapply in an open process.

3 **NEW HOMES BONUS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Principal Project Manager (Infrastructure Management & Delivery) presented the report giving Members an overview of applications to the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund, and issues arising to date.

Members noted the report and that a further £8,000 was available in addition to the balance of £40,659 due to an underspend by the St Thomas Social Club.

It was also noted that work was being undertaken with the Community Involvement & Inclusion Officer and Corporate Manager Property to map community facilities and identify any gaps. A report would be presented to the Panel at a future date which may identify a need to change the criteria to prioritise projects which would fill those gaps.

A Member clarified that the recent enquiry from the St Thomas Methodist Pre-school for improvement to toilets was not solely for use by the pre-school but as part of a community building.

The Senior Estates Surveyor clarified the position with regard to the Countess Wear Community Building. Fields in Trust have recently indicated that any land taken out of the Trust must be replaced by an alternative piece of land which can be used as playing field and has the same monetary value. This is considered too onerous to be recommended to the Council. Other options are therefore now being considered by Wear United, although it was noted that their grant was limited by a condition to the proposals that were presented to the Panel.

4 **LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS**

4a **Application 1 - Exeter Gymnastics Club**

The Chair welcomed Tim Johns (Chairman) and Mike Euridge (Coaching Director), the representatives of the Exeter Gymnastics Club. They gave a presentation on the application for funds to extend the Club's building to create an additional training area, larger reception, disabled toilet facilities and storage for buggies, prams and bikes.

Councillor Shiel spoke in support of the application.

A Member referred to the Exeter Health & Wellbeing Board as a potential source of funding, as the facilities being offered were consistent with the aims and objectives of the Board. Details of this and other potential sources would be forwarded on to the Club.

In response to Members questions, the Club's representatives advised that:

- Any further funding, including raising income to service a loan, would be from activities such as galas rather than increasing subscriptions.
- Further funding would be sought from British Gymnastics for a new purpose built high level gymnastics club. The new building would be purpose-built for elite gymnasts. The existing building would be used for pre-school, recreational and adult activities and there is no intention to cease using that building.
- The Club currently has a waiting list, and membership is from all areas of the city. The Club does not advertise as it has no spare capacity, but British Gymnastics are currently running an active promotion.

Recommended to Executive that the application for £40,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:

12. The grant is conditional upon evidence being provided that funding has been secured to cover the entire anticipated construction costs.
13. The grant is conditional upon evidence being produced, in a form agreed by the Council as appropriate to the items concerned, that value for money is being achieved in relation to each element of the scheme and that they are not being funded by other sources.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.40 pm)

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