

## MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Thursday 25 June 2015

### Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair)  
Councillors Hannaford and Sutton

### Also Present:

Principal Project Manager (Infrastructure Management & Delivery), Community Involvement and Inclusion Officer, Principal Accountant Service (PM), Senior Valuer and Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Committees)

### 6 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 February 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

### 7 **SMALL ARTS GRANTS UPDATE**

The report updating Members on the small arts grants recipients was noted.

### 8 **NEW HOMES BONUS AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Principal Project Manager (Infrastructure Management and Delivery) presented the report giving Members an update on projects funded by the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund.

Members noted that the Football in the Community Trust feasibility study to redevelop the community building was largely underspent as the initial part of the study identified a different direction for the project to take and therefore further funds were not drawn down.

The underspend is held within the New Homes Bonus Fund together with a further amount underspent by St Thomas Social Club. A further underspend would occur in relation to the Countess Wear grant (items 9a and 9b).

The Senior Valuer reported on the Martial Arts and Boxing Club based in Beacon Heath. The lease had commenced approximately 15 years ago, but did not make provision for responsibility for maintenance.

The premises now requires a new roof and in order to preserve the asset it was suggested that the underspend from the Local Infrastructure Fund could be used for this purpose. Members felt that this would be a good use.

It was noted that the Senior Valuer and Principal Accountant would make arrangements under delegated powers to use the underspend from the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund for the repair of the Martial Arts and Boxing Club roof.

## 9 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS TO VARY CONDITIONS OF GRANT

### 9a Application 1 - Countess Wear Village Hall

The Chair welcomed Gill Tippins and David Lang, the representatives of Countess Wear Village Hall. They gave a presentation on the application to vary conditions of grant as it was not possible to implement the original proposal of a new community building at Countess Wear. The application for a grant of £75,000 would be used to replace the existing Countess Wear Village Hall on its current site.

Councillor Choules spoke in support of the application.

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

- The new building will meet Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements, with lift access to the first floor.
- £75,000-80,000 had already been raised towards the costs of the building.

**Recommended** to Executive that the application for £75,000 be approved, subject to the following conditions:

- The grant is conditional upon planning permission being received for the proposal.
- The grant is conditional upon evidence being provided that the funding is (a) necessary and (b) sufficient (together with other funding secured) to cover the anticipated construction costs.
- 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.

### 9b Application 2 - 100 Club Community Group

The Chair welcomed Caroline Stephens, the representative of the 100 Club Community Group. She gave a presentation in support of a further application to vary conditions of grant as it was not now possible to implement the original proposal of a new community building at Countess Wear. The application for a grant of £7,000 would be used to support the development of the 100 Club Community Group.

Councillor Robson spoke in support of the application.

A Member referred to the councillors locality budgets as a potential source of funding as some of the items listed in the report were revenue costs. Councillor Robson advised that ward grants had been heavily used due to the demand in the area.

The Principal Project Manager (Infrastructure and Management and Delivery) reported that applications for the Local Infrastructure Fund could be used for revenue purposes in exceptional circumstances at Members' discretion, but not as an ongoing commitment. These items were required as an investment to generate more funds for the Club and also met the aspirations of building stronger sustainable communities.

**Recommended** to Executive that the application for £7,000 be approved subject to the following condition:

- 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.

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.33 pm)

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