

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Thursday 23 February 2012

Present:-

Councillor John Winterbottom (Chair)
Councillors Baldwin, Bull and Spackman

Also Present

Director Community and Environment, Projects and Business Manager, Senior Valuer (TJ), City Arts and Events Manager, Principal Accountant (SH), Community Inclusion and Engagement Officer, Policy Officer (MP-J) and Member Services Officer (SJS)

1 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2011 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members declared the following personal (*prejudicial) interests:-

COUNCILLOR	MINUTE
Councillor Baldwin	5 (in respect of Topsham Community Association as a Council Representative on the Committee and Topsham Museum as member of the Friends)
Councillor Bull	4 *(he and his wife work with the Arts Organisations) 5 (in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate) 6 (in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate)
Councillor Spackman	5 (in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate) 6 (in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate)

3 **BUDGET POSITION**

The Principal Accountant (SH) advised Members on the current budget position with regards to the grants budget and stated that the fund available for core grants was £371,210. The total amount of the core grants recommended for approval was £367,500 leaving a balance of £3,710.

4 **SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH STRATEGIC ARTS ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor Bull declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he and his wife work with the Arts Organisations and left the room for consideration of the item.

The City Arts and Events Manager presented the report to approve the service profiles, targets and measures which would be the basis of the service agreements

with the Exeter Northcott Theatre, Theatre Alibi, Spacex, Exeter Phoenix and Exeter Barnfield Theatre.

Members were advised that, in spite of the current economic down turn, the Arts Organisations had continued to go from strength to strength.

In response to a Member's question, the City Arts and Events Manager clarified that Exeter Northcott Theatre would be receiving £125,000 a year for the next three years from the Arts Council England's Strategic Theatre Exeter Fund.

As a further update regarding Exeter Northcott Theatre, the City Arts and Events Manager reported that the City Council had seen the theatre's recent three year business plan and although the margins were tight, as with most arts organisations, officers were satisfied on the figures presented, that the theatre demonstrated that it could maintain a financial stability over the next three years. Nevertheless, the University of Exeter had still to confirm the amount of funding it will be giving to Exeter Northcott and therefore the recommendation was still to agree City Council funding in principle until the University's funding had been confirmed.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:-

- (1) the levels of annual funding to the designated strategic arts organisations, as set out in item 5. 1, are approved;
- (2) the grant of £70,321 to Exeter Northcott Theatre in principle be approved. The funding shall not be released until written confirmation has been received from the Chair of the Theatre's Board confirming all other stakeholders' support. Release of funding shall then be agreed by the Assistant Director Economy and the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism; and
- (3) the individual service profiles and agreements be the basis for the schedule of payments for the strategic arts organisations dependent on 6 month and 12 month monitoring reports be agreed.

(Report circulated)

5

RENT GRANTS

Councillor Baldwin declared a personal interest in respect of Topsham Community Association as a Council Representative on the Committee and Topsham Museum as a member of the Friends.

Councillor Bull declared a personal interest in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate.

Councillor Spackman declared a personal interest in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:-

- (1) the decisions, as set out below, be implemented in respect of the bodies indicated; and
- (2) the Corporate Manager Policy/Communications/Community Engagement, subject to prior consultation with the Chair, be authorised to agree a grant increase to those organisations indicated by an asterisk to match any

increase in rental following forthcoming rent reviews and also, where applicable, a pro rata reduction in grant where a rent reduction occurs following a reduction in the amount of accommodation occupied.

Community/Social Need

RECOMMENDED

Citizens Advice Bureau*	£33,190
Devon Rape Crisis Services Ltd	£5,900
Exeter Age UK*	£13,100
Exeter CVS*	£63,425
Exeter Relate*	£11,600
Turntable*	£9,000

Museums

Topsham Museum*	£2,800 plus insurance of £1,904 (estimated cash grant)
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Arts

Phoenix*	£60,180
Barnfield Theatre	£8,000

Sport/Recreation

Exeter BMX Track*	£18,000
Exeter Cycle Speedway Club*	£9,750
Exeter Water Sports Association*	£7,400

Community Associations

Alphington Community Association	£6,000
Exwick Community Association*	£6,500
Newtown Community Association*	£2,000
Stoke Hill Community Association	£8,300
Sylvania Play and Community Facilities Association	£1,250
Topsham Community Association	£7,900
Wonford Community and Learning Centre Ltd*	£5,000

Stoke Hill Pre-School Group	£800
Exeter Scrapstore – including Magic Carpet and Merry Go Round Toy and Leisure Library	£8,500

(schedule circulated)

6

CORE GRANTS

Councillor Bull declared a personal interest in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate.

Councillor Spackman declared a personal interest in respect of Exeter Age UK as a Pride and Place Advocate.

In response to a Member's question, the City Arts and Events Manager clarified the position with regards to the administration of the Exeter Arts Council. Exeter Arts Council had not made any additional applications for funding to support its work although the funding awarded had been successful in leveraging additional funds from the National Lottery Grants for the Arts awards.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that the decisions, as set out below, be implemented in respect of the bodies indicated;

BODY

Community/Social Need	RECOMMENDED	
Citizens Advice Bureau	£73,300	provides a service free at point of delivery and accessible to all people residing in Exeter. Contacts made with clients dealing with issues such as housing, consumer and benefit issues, employment and debt
Exeter CVS	£13,900	provides valuable support to voluntary organisations
Plymouth & Devon Council for Racial Equality	£1,500	support for BME community
Living Options	£5,000	supports people with disabilities within the City
Paperchain	£4,500	recycling in the City generally, volunteers with disabilities, supports the City Council's objectives
Turntable	£6,250	environmentally friendly project, 30% of those helped take up housing association tenancies and 50% Council tenancies

Exeter Age Concern	£5,200	to help support and continue to provide services to Exeter residents
Exeter Community Transport Association – Ring & Ride & Taxicard	£17,240	one of five services provided by ECTA, to help people with disabilities access all areas of Exeter through various mobility solutions and allows disabled people to claim back 50% of taxi fares to a maximum annual limit
adva	£5,000	

Arts

Exeter Northcott	£70,321	
Spacex	£11,365	
Theatre Alibi	£17,686	
Exeter Phoenix	£108,238	
Exeter Barnfield	£8,250	
Magic Carpet	£1,500	support for regular arts activities for people with disabilities and special needs in the City

Sport and Leisure

Merry Go Round Toy and Leisure Library - Scrapstore	£1,000	to enable the toy library in the Scrapstore to remain open
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Grant-Aiding Bodies

Exeter Arts Council	£10,000	distribution of small arts grants to organisations and individuals
Exeter Council for Sport and Recreation	£5,000	an efficient and effective body which administers valuable small grants for sport

(Report circulated)

FUTURE OF GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Projects and Business Manager presented a paper on the future of the Gants Committee (paper attached to minutes).

He advised Members on the proposed panel, the Local Infrastructure Fund which Executive had decided to establish as part of the New Homes Bonus, and the proposed dates of the panel meetings with deadlines for applications. The name of the panel had yet to be agreed.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:-

- (1) in Part 3 of the Constitution "Responsibility for Functions", references to Grants Committee be replaced by references to the new panel;
- (2) appropriate powers be included in the Scheme of Delegations (for example a power to reject applications to the Local Infrastructure Fund that fall outside the applicable criteria); and
- (3) any appropriate consequential amendments be made to the Constitution.

(Paper circulated at meeting)

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.00 pm)

Chair