

MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Thursday 12 September 2013

Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Hannaford, Mrs Henson and Sutton

Apologies:

Councillor Fullam

Also Present:

Councillor Bull

Also Present:

Projects and Business Manager, Community Involvement and Inclusion Officer,
Senior Valuer, Corporate Manager - Legal and Assistant Democratic Services
Officer (Committees)

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MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 February, 28 February and 8 March 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

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NEW HOMES BONUS AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - PROGRESS UPDATE

The Projects and Business Manager presented the report giving Members an overview of current and anticipated applications to the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund, and issues arising to date. This round there were applications totalling £35,000 from a fund of £32,559 remaining for 2013/14.

Members were shown photographs of projects that had been completed following approved funding.

Members agreed that when monitoring forms are sent out following completion of projects, a letter be sent to organisations on behalf of the Panel congratulating them on the work undertaken.

Members noted the report.

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LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS

20a

Application 1 - St James Forum Queens Crescent

Representatives from the Exeter St James Forum gave a presentation on the proposal for the design, planning and other work towards the acquisition and improvement of Queens Crescent Garden. The application was for £10,000.

Councillor Mitchell spoke in support of the application.

Recommend to Executive that the application for £10,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional condition:

12. The grant is conditional on the Council being satisfied that the funding is being necessarily incurred for the purposes described in the application.

20b **Application 2 - 2nd Exeter Scouts and Park Life**

Representatives from the 2nd Exeter Scouts and Park Life gave a presentation on the application to work up detailed proposals for a community hub or “urban village hall” in Heavitree Park, including changing, coaching, office and storage space for the tennis courts, replacement bowling club premises, and a base for the local scouts. The application was for £15,000.

Councillor Crow spoke in support of the application.

Recommend to Executive that the application for £15,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional condition:

- 112 The grant is conditional on the Council being satisfied that the funding is being necessarily incurred for the purposes described in the application.

20c **Application 3 - Citizens Advice Bureau**

A representative from the Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau gave a presentation on the application for improvements and alterations to Civic Centre premises, including to entrance, waiting and reception area; alternatively to improve Wat Tyler House if the move does not take place. The application was for £10,000.

Recommend to Executive that the application for £10,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional condition:

12. The grant is conditional upon Building Regulations consent, planning permission and landlord’s approval being received, where necessary.
13. 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 cost of the project, or a discrete element of it.
14. The grant is conditional upon evidence being produced that value for money is being achieved in relation to the project.

20d **New Homes Bonus Fund**

Recommended to Executive that £2,500 from grants previously awarded but which will not be drawn down in this financial year be used towards the awards in this round.

21 **MAJOR GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

21a **Rent Grants**

The Senior Valuer reported on the application for a rent grant for the Citizens Advice Bureau. The grant will be used to cover rent of premises costs at the Civic Centre if the proposed move goes ahead, likely to take place in the 2013/14 financial year.

Recommended that the decision on the Citizens Advice Bureau Rent Grant be referred to Executive depending on confirmation of the move to the Civic Centre.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS OF GRANT

Members noted the conditions of grant for applications to the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund.

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.23 pm)