

MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Thursday 28 November 2013

Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Hannaford and Sutton

Apologies:

Councillors Fullam and Mrs Henson

Also Present:

Projects and Business Manager, Community Involvement and Inclusion Officer,
City Arts and Events Manager, and Assistant Democratic Services Officer
(Committees)

23

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

24

PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH STRATEGIC ARTS ORGANISATIONS

The City Arts and Events Manager presented the report on twelve month monitoring reviews for 2012/13 which assess the delivery of the Service Agreements with the Exeter Northcott Theatre, Exeter Phoenix, Theatre Alibi, Spacex and Exeter Barnfield Theatre.

Members proposed that it is made clear that the open and transparent application process for 2015/16 within existing budget limits will be open to all arts organisations.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:-

- (1) the content of the progress reports on the delivery of Service Agreements to date be noted, and the final payments of the funding for 2013/14 are made to Exeter Northcott, Exeter Phoenix, Spaces, Theatre Alibi and Exeter Barnfield Theatre be agreed;
- (2) an in principle allocation of funds based on 5% reduction be discussed with Exeter Northcott, Exeter Phoenix, Spacex, Theatre Alibi and Exeter Barnfield Theatre as the basis for the development of Service Agreements for 2014/15 based against the interim Cultural Strategy Action Plan Goals. This would be brought to the Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel on 20 February 2014 for approval; and
- (3) the offer of core support of £10,973 to Exeter Bikeshed Theatre on the basis of a submission and the development of a Service Agreement for 2014/15 against the goals of the Interim Cultural Strategy Action Plan be approved.

- (4) agree in principle to the proposal for 3 year funding for those Strategic Arts Organisations who also receive Arts Council National Portfolio Funding 2015-2018.
- (5) the timetable for proposed changes to grant funding of Strategic Arts Organisations and the open application process proposed for all arts organisations for 2015/16 be noted.

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

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.

Members raised the following issues:

- How assistance could be provided to help communities with no active organisation to apply for funds for infrastructure.
- Members stressed the need for organisations to demonstrate that their project would benefit the wider community, and if possible to work together with other organisations on joint projects.

It was suggested that a review of the criteria should take place after the February Panel meeting, to include the eligibility of various types of organisations, and the possibility of the Council applying for funds itself to help communities with capacity building.

Members were shown photographs of projects that had been completed following approved funding. Members asked for successful projects to continue to be publicised in the Exeter Citizen.

Members noted the report.

26 **LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS**

26a **Application 1 - St Sidwells Community Centre - not before 5pm**

The Community Involvement and Inclusion Officer declared an interest as a Trustee of St Sidwells Community Centre.

The Chair welcomed David Wright, Sue Pearce, Simon Richmond and Marcus Gardner, the representatives of St Sidwells Community Centre. They gave a presentation on the application for funds to assist with the extension and improvement of St Sidwells Centre. The application was for £40,000 capital and £10,000 revenue costs.

Councillor Owen spoke in support of the application.

Members requested that consideration should be given to improvements to the walkway as part of the proposed preparatory and design work.

Recommended to Executive that the application for £50,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:

12. Element A of the grant is conditional on the Council being satisfied that the funding is being necessarily incurred for design and other preparatory work towards the project described in the application.
13. In working up the design, the applicant shall assess the feasibility of improvements to (a) the rear access from King William Street, and (b) the path adjacent to the site between King William Street and Sidwell Street for inclusion in the final design to the extent that they are feasible and affordable.
14. Element B of the grant is conditional upon planning permission being received for the project, and upon evidence being provided to the satisfaction of the Council that funding has been secured to cover the entire anticipated construction costs, or a discrete element of them.
15. Element B of 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.

26b **Application 2 - Newcourt Community Association - not before 5.30pm**

The Chair welcomed John Arkell, Clive Martin and Kathryn Newbery, the representatives of Newcourt Community Association. They gave a presentation on the application for funds to contribute to the second year's running costs of the new community centre, including employment of a part-time manager.

Councillor Newby spoke in support of the application.

Members noted the delays in handing over the building which are outside of Newcourt Community Association's control. Although Year One funding had only partly been claimed due to the delays, the Association would potentially need to draw money down quickly once the building was handed over, so the Association had been advised by officers to submit the bid now.

Recommended to Executive that the application for £21,110 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:

12. The grant is conditional upon the Council taking ownership of the building.
13. The grant is conditional upon the Council being satisfied in respect of each item of expenditure:
 - that it is being properly incurred in the running of a community facility;
 - that it is not being funded from any other source; and
 - that value for money is being achieved.

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 6.34 pm)

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