
COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME – GENERIC BUDGET 2018/19

Report by Service Director of Customer & Communities

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**5th June 2018****1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report recommends three applications for funding from the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) generic budget.**
- 1.2 The Learning Space SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation based in Gavinton but which offers its services Borders-wide. The request is for a contribution towards phased refurbishment of The Old Bakehouse in Gavinton to provide additional recreational space to support more children/young people with complex learning needs. It is requesting a grant of £5,000 towards an overall £5,505 project.
- 1.3 First Light Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee based in England but which is also a Scottish Registered Charity and extending its activities into Scotland. The request is to contribute towards the creation of a cafe/shop and workshop facility at 1 & 3 High Street, Hawick to provide a drop-in/meeting place for ex-army veterans and local community to aid better integration. It is requesting a grant of £5,000 towards an overall £5,350 project.
- 1.4 Scottish Borders Community Development Company (The Bridge) is the Council for Voluntary Service for the areas covering Central Borders, Roxburgh and Tweeddale. It provides low cost community transport services badged locally as Gala Wheels, Teviot Wheels and Tweed Wheels. The request is for a contribution towards the purchase of an additional 11 seater passenger vehicle for Gala Wheels to meet the growing demands of the service. It is requesting a grant of £5,000 towards the overall £36,343 project cost.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee approves:-**
 - (a) a grant of £5,000 to The Learning Space SCIO.**
 - (b) a grant of £5,000 to The Bridge**
- 2.2 I recommend that the Executive Committee approves the following subject to being satisfied with the additional information being provided at 4.2 (e):**
 - (a) A grant of £5,000 to Firstlight Trust**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The CGS can provide either projects grants for new or developing work or support grants for groups facing temporary financial difficulty. Full details of the scheme can be found on our website at https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/261/community_grant_scheme
- 3.2 The CGS generic budget can provide grants to groups who are constituted as working Borders-wide. It can also provide grants to groups who are non-Borders based but who deliver projects which provide direct benefits to identified groups in the Borders.

4 APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL

4.1	APPLICANT:	The Learning Space SCIO
	PROJECT:	Refurb of Old Bakehouse, Gavinton
	REF NO:	101001442525
	TOTAL PROJECT COST:	£5,505
	GRANT REQUEST:	£5,000
	GRANT RECOMMENDATION:	£5,000

- (a) The Learning Space SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its purpose is to help the advancement of education for children and young people with barriers to learning. It develops bespoke educational activities and experiences to enable children and young people to develop, move forward and succeed in learning. Those it assists have complex learning needs such as autism, ADHD and dyslexia.
- (b) This grant request is to contribute towards the upgrade of electrical wiring, improved lighting and better toilet accessibility at the 'Old Bakehouse', Gavinton.
- (c) The 'Old Bakehouse' is next door to the group's current premises and it has obtained a 5 year lease over the building, with the option of further 5 year extensions, to enable it to widen its range of activities and support more children and families. The building has been undergoing phased improvements with the assistance of grant funding and in-kind volunteer time and materials. This phase will upgrade the electrics, install new power sockets, modernise the existing toilet facility (including disabled), improve current lighting and install colour changing lighting to assist those with sensory impairments. Doors will also be widened to assist those with mobility issues. The organisation currently assists 20 children and their families in the Berwickshire and Cheviot areas and has a waiting list. Additional activity space will allow it to accommodate more children/young people with learning needs. The building will also be available for wider community use to generate further income to aid future sustainability. The organisation has obtained wide community support for this project with many volunteers coming forward to donate time and materials. SBC Planning has confirmed no Consent is required for the internal works being undertaken.

- (d) Funding from Blackridge Community Fund, Borders Children's Charity, local Co-operative Fund and BAVS Assist have funded other improvements to the building. The electrical contractor has offered a reduced fee for his services and the organisation is contributing £505 towards the cost of the project.
- (e) It is recommended to award £5,000.

4.2 **APPLICANT:** **Firstlight Trust**
PROJECT: **Creation of Scottish Hub, to be based in Hawick**
REF NO: **101001533584**
TOTAL PROJECT COST: **£6,326**
GRANT REQUEST: **£5,000**
GRANT RECOMMENDATION: **£5,000**

- (a) First Light Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee based in England but which is also a Scottish Registered Charity. It undertakes activities to relieve, promote and protect the health of army veterans, rehabilitating them through advice and recreational activities to improve their condition of life. The Trust has been developing links with local organisations and other veteran support services in the Borders area to complement support already offered. It is also liaising with local businesses to establish suitable work placements as part of rehabilitation into gainful employment.
- (b) This grant request is to purchase commercial kitchen equipment as a Phase 2 development to enable the opening of the café. The café will act as a drop-in/social facility for ex-army veterans to better integrate them within their local community. Phase 1 to undertake internal refurbishment works is already underway.
- (c) The café in Hawick will form part of the first Scottish 'hub' for ex-army veterans, incorporating a charity shop to sell upcycled/second-hand items and army surplus plus workshop premises where educational, skills and recreational activities will be undertaken. Successful hubs are already operating in Scarborough, Redcar, Gosport, Lancaster and Hartlepool. The hub will be open to the Borders wide community as well as ex-army veterans. The café will be managed by 2 trained members of staff who will be able to identify those requiring counselling, housing, benefit assistance and direct to the correct source of support. Both the café and charity shop will be assisted by volunteers to act as a stepping stone to employment developing retail skills in Barista, hospitality etc. The café and charity shop will bring in income to sustain the running of the hub. Workshops will offer educational activities such as numeracy and literacy, computer skills and recreational activities such as gardening, cake baking for the café, mechanics etc. These activities will also be open to the wider community. Kitting out of the charity shop and workshop will be undertaken when further funding has been sourced. Full Planning Permission has been obtained Ref: 17/01489/FUL.
- (d) The Trust has already accrued external funding for the Phase 1

(e) Whilst the application from FirstLight Trust meets the criteria of the Community Grant Scheme, in considering approval of this application elected members may wish to consider the following

- that the Localities Bid Fund will shortly be awarding £6,500 to Hawick Men's Sheds to provide kitchen facilities within their premises at Lothian Street in Hawick.
- The Community Grant Scheme also awarded £5,000 to Hawick Community Café in 2014 to provide a community hub and café incorporating a charity shop in Hawick High Street.
- It is not clear at this stage how this hub model will fit into the existing Borders Veterans strategies and if they support the proposal of a Scottish hub based in Hawick.

- (a) The Bridge is a Borders based charitable company limited by guarantee. It is the Council for Voluntary Service for the Central Borders, Roxburgh and Tweeddale areas. It is also the lead contact for the Third Sector Interface (TSI). It supports the development of third sector organisations, builds community capacity and represents the interests of the third sector at community planning partnership level. It provides direct services to meet identified local needs such as 2 thrift shops and a low cost fully accessible community transport service.
- (b) This grant request is to contribute towards the cost of an additional 11 seater passenger transport vehicle to be based at Gala Wheels.
- (c) Gala Wheels provides a low cost transport service for older, frail or disabled people in the Central Borders area. It provides them with access to hospital, health and social care appointments. It also reduces their social isolation by enabling them to take part in activities which allows them to interact with others such as lunch clubs, shopping trips, fitness clubs etc. The service also provides transport for other charitable organisations such as Chest, Heart & Stroke, MS Society, Momentum, Ataxia UK and Artbeat. Gala Wheels now has a waiting list of people wishing to use the service. Between January 2016-May 2017 it undertook 5693 trips, averaging 10 per day and is unable to meet the growing demands of the service with its current two 7 seater vehicles. The new vehicle will be multi-functional in that seating can be added or removed to accommodate wheelchairs as necessary. It is estimated the new vehicle will enable a further 520 people to be accommodated. The

organisation has already been awarded £7,500 from Robertson Trust, £10,000 from Hayward Sanderson Trust and £10,000 from Awards for All. The organisation is contributing £3,843 of its own funds and the request from CGS will make up the shortfall in the funding package.

- (d) It is recommended to award £5,000.

5 BUDGET INFORMATION

Base Budget : £10,000

c/f from 2017/18: £ 11,176

Total Budget: £22,176

No awards have been made in 2018/19.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There is sufficient funding in the CGS generic budget to cover the recommendations contained in this report. Approval of these grants will leave a balance of £7,176 for 2018/19.

6.2 Risks and Mitigations

There are believed to be no apparent risks to the Council associated with the recommendations in this report.

SBC provides annual contribution of £26,160 towards the normal running costs of Gala, Teviot & Tweed Wheels and a further £18,300 specifically for transport of Social Work referrals and volunteer car use. All other running costs are met from income generated by bookings and it is anticipated that income from increasing demand to use the service will meet the running costs of an additional vehicle.

6.3 Equalities

- (a) All applications are assessed in terms of how organisations address equalities. All organisations have their own Equality Opportunities Policies and it is believed that there is no adverse impact due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from the proposals in this report.
- (b) All applications address the needs of disadvantaged groups of people in the local community.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

- (a) There is believed to be a positive environmental and social impact to the request from The Learning Space SCIO. The grant will assist with sympathetic refurbishment of an old bakehouse to utilise a derelict building into a multi-functional community resource to benefit all. It will improve the built environment and provide assistance for families of children with learning difficulties allowing them to come together to forge friendships and mutual understanding.
- (b) There is believed to be a positive economic and social impact to the request from Firstlight Trust. The grant will assist with the creation of a facility for ex-Army personnel and the local community to provide better community integration and forge new friendships.

Further phased improvements to form a shop and workshop space will provide educational and recreational activities to benefit all and fully utilise an empty shop premises on Hawick High Street.

- (c) There is believed to be a positive social and economic impact to the request from The Bridge. Gala Wheels offers a low cost community transport service which addresses disadvantage in rural communities. It assists in reducing social isolation across roughly 75% of the Borders area to those on low incomes or who have mobility issues and are unable to access public transport.

6.5 **Carbon Management**

- (a) There are believed to be no carbon management issues with either of the requests from The Learning Space SCIO and Firstlight Trust.
- (b) Although the subject of the request from The Bridge is to purchase an additional vehicle, the vehicle will be a new Peugeot Boxer ELWB 440 L4H2 which is economical and meets Euro 6 emissions regulations. Purchase of a large 11 seater vehicle may also reduce the need for multiple journeys by smaller vehicles.

6.6 **Rural Proofing**

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

6.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

7 **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig
Service Director of Customer & Communities

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Claire Penny	Funding Officer 01835 824000 Ext 5644

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Claire Penny can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Scottish Borders council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835-824000 Ext. 5644, Email: communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk