
**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME
– GENERIC BUDGET**

Report by the Service Director Strategy & Policy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 This report recommends an application for approval from the Community Grant Scheme generic budget.

1.2 The application put forward to this Executive Committee for approval is:-

Borders Community Radio & Media Ltd, based in Galashiels, but which covers the whole of the Scottish Borders, for a project grant to contribute towards the installation of broadcasting equipment (See Appendix 1). The organisation has to date operated over the internet but has now been successful in obtaining a Community Radio Licence to broadcast over FM. Following negotiation to secure suitable premises, it now requires to install the necessary equipment to enable it to commence broadcasting in February 2015. The organisation has applied to Awards for All (£9,991) and requires match-funding from the Community Grant Scheme. The total project cost is £14,991 and the grant request is for £5,000.

The confirmed budget available is £12,121 and the recommendation for funding is £5,000.

1.3 It is recommended to approve the request to the full amount, conditional on match-funding being achieved for the project.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee approves a grant to the value of £5,000 to Borders Community Radio & Media Ltd, conditional on match-funding being achieved for the project

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The terms and conditions of the scheme are as set down in the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme application form, attached guidance notes and the Grants Policy and Guidelines. Copies of these documents are available on the Council's website (www.scotborders.gov.uk) or in hard copy from the Strategic Policy Unit. These include the criteria used to judge the suitability of a project and applicant body, procedures for the release of funds and monitoring requirements to comply with the rules of the scheme.
- 3.2 The base budget for the Community Grant Scheme Generic budget is £10,000.
- 3.3 The generic budget has been formed following agreement by the Executive Committee on 18 March 2014 to amalgamate the former Borders-wide and non Borders-based budgets into one single budget of £10,000 annually.
- 3.4 An approved ear-marked balance of £9,502 has been carried forward into the 2014/15 generic budget. £1,312 from the former Borders-wide budget and £8,190 from the former non Borders-based budget.
- 3.5 It was agreed by Executive on 26 February 2008 that any underspend in the annual Community Council Support budget should be vired into the Community Grant Scheme for further community benefit. There is no underspend to be transferred from the 2013/14 Community Council Support budget.
- 3.6 A further £1,569 has been paid back into the generic budget as a result of unutilised grant funding by community groups in 2013/14.
- 3.7 The total budget for 2014/15 is therefore £21,071.

4 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

- 4.1 The application put forward to this Executive Committee meeting for decision is:-

Borders Community Radio & Media Ltd, based in Galashiels, but which covers the whole of the Scottish Borders, for a project grant to contribute towards the installation of broadcasting equipment (See Appendix 1). The organisation provides a community radio which caters for a variety of listeners of varying ages and backgrounds. It also promotes local businesses, charities and community groups in the Scottish Borders area and fills a medium for local news articles which it feels are no longer sufficiently catered for by local TV coverage. The organisation has to date operated over the internet but has now been successful in obtaining a Community Radio Licence to broadcast over FM. Following negotiation to secure suitable premises, it now requires to install the necessary equipment to enable it to commence broadcasting in February 2015. The grant will contribute towards the cost of electrical work and a transmitter package. The organisation has applied to Awards for All (£9,991) and requires match-funding from the Community Grant Scheme. The total project cost is £14,991 and the grant request is for

£5,000. The nature of the application complies with the Community Grant Scheme guidelines and meets the outcome 'communities have more access to better quality local services or activities'. It is therefore recommended to fund to the full amount, conditional on match-funding being achieved for the project. The grant request is for £5,000.

5 BUDGET INFORMATION

5.1 The total budget in the generic budget is £21,071.

5.2 The decisions made to date are as follows:-

Date	CGS No	Description	Amount of Grant
19/08/2014	CGS/14/14	NTC Touring Theatre Co Ltd - Rumpelstiltskin	2,650.00
19/08/2014	CGS/28/14	Survivors Unite – Group Development & Learning Project	1,370.00
11/11/2014	CGS/49/14	Instinctively Wild – Support Grant	4,930.00
		TOTAL	8,950.00

5.3 The balance available is £12,121.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There is sufficient funding within the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme (generic budget) to cover the recommendation contained in this report and there are therefore no additional financial implications on the Council's resources. Approval of the grant will leave £7,121 available by the Executive Committee in 2014/15.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are other no risks associated with the recommendation in this report. All risks are minimised within the guidelines of the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme.

6.3 Equalities

In accordance with the guidelines of the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme, all applications are assessed in terms of how groups have taken account of equal opportunities. It is anticipated that there will be no adverse impact in regard to the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender; race; religion; sexual orientation; poverty; health; marital status) arising from the proposal in the this application. Membership of the organisation is open to all, although it does not have an Equalities Policy. An EIA Scoping Assessment has been carried out and there are no apparent concerns. In line with advice received from the SBC Equality & Diversity Officer the organisation will be advised to produce its own Equalities Policies.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no environmental impacts with regard to the recommendation in this report and no specific additional concerns need to be addressed.

6.5 Carbon Management

There are believed to be no carbon management issues relating to the recommendation contained in this report.

6.6 Rural Proofing

As this report is not a new or updated policy or strategy document it does not require to be rural proofed.

6.7 Changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has been held with the Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy & Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council and their comments have been contained within the report.

Approved by

Service Director Strategy & Policy

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: Executive Committee 19.08.2014

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

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