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**COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME – GENERIC BUDGET 2018/19**

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**Report by Service Director Customer & Communities**

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## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**21 August 2018**

### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report recommends one application for funding from the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) generic budget.**
- 1.2 Home Basics (Tweeddale) Co Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, under the Companies Act 2006, and a recognised charity in Scotland. The project collects furniture and household items which can be reused and sells them on, at very low prices, to people that are disadvantaged and live in the Scottish Borders.
- 1.3 The re-use service reduces the number of items going to landfill. The organisation provides volunteering opportunities for people to gain work experience, use their skills and experience to give something back to the community, or to get out and meet people (reduce social isolation).
- 1.4 The request is for a contribution towards the purchase of a replacement van for collections/deliveries across the Scottish Borders. It is requesting a grant of £5,000 towards the overall project cost of £27,843.
- 1.5 The application is being submitted to the generic fund as the work of the charity benefits communities across the Scottish Borders.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee approves a grant of £5,000 to Home Basics (Tweeddale) Co Ltd on the condition that the remaining funds are in place.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The CGS can provide either project 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](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 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

4.1	<b>APPLICANT:</b>	<b>Home Basics (Tweeddale) Co Ltd</b>
	<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>Purchase of replacement van</b>
	<b>REF NO:</b>	<b>101001562597</b>
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>£27,843</b>
	<b>GRANT REQUEST:</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
	<b>GRANT RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>£5,000</b>

- (a) Home Basics (Tweeddale) Co Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, under the Companies Act 2006, and a recognised charity in Scotland. The objects for which the company was established are the relief of poverty of the inhabitants of the area of benefit (in particular those who have need by virtue of their age, youth, infirmity, disability, handicap poverty, homelessness or unemployment), by collecting, refurbishing and storing donated furniture and household goods and distributing to those in need.
- (b) The charity collects furniture and household items which can be re-used and sells them on, at very low prices, to people that are disadvantaged. It provides a re-use service which reduces the number of items going to landfill and provides volunteering opportunities for people to:
- gain work experience
  - use their skills and experience to give something back to the community, or to
  - get out and meet people, and so reduce social isolation.
- (c) This grant request is to contribute towards the purchase of a replacement Luton style van following the demise of the previous vehicle. The organisation is currently utilising a van hired from Cooks Van Hire.
- (d) Home Basics has bases in Walkerburn and Hawick but provides the service to most of the Borders. Since the closure of Berwickshire Furniture Restoration the project also occasionally works in Berwickshire. It is the only furniture reuse charity in the Borders.
- (e) The Luton style van is based at the Hawick depot but is used across the Borders to move larger pieces of furniture. The van is an essential part of the charity's work as it facilitates the free collection of donations from the public and the deliveries of goods bought in

the warehouses. Although collection of goods is free there is a charge for deliveries, this helps to cover the cost of the van and the paid drivers.

- (f) The van also acts as an advertisement for the charity and its work, promoting both the existence and services of the organisation. As well as helping the homeless, and people on low incomes, goods are available to the general public which helps to generate an operating income for the charity.
- (g) Funding of £15,000 has been secured from the Clothworker's Foundation. An application for £5,000 has been submitted to the Bank of Scotland Foundation with a decision is expected at the end of August. An application for £9,300 has been submitted to Hawick Common Good. Two further funding applications have been unsuccessful.
- (h) The total value of funding applications made exceeds the amount required in anticipation of not all of the applications being successful. The group will contribute the required 10% match funding (£500) towards the purchase of the van and can draw on reserves (up to £10,000) if required to meet a shortfall.
- (i) The application is being submitted to the generic fund as the charity works across the Scottish Borders area.
- (j) It is recommended to award £5,000 on condition that the remaining funds are in place.

## **5 BUDGET INFORMATION**

5.1	Base Budget :	£10,000
	c/f from 2017/18:	<u>£11,176</u>
	Total Budget:	£21,176

2018/19 budget	£21,176
2018/19 awards to date:	<u>£13,220</u>
Available budget	£7,956

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

There is sufficient funding in the CGS generic budget to cover the recommendation contained in this report. Approval of this grant would leave a balance of £2,956.

### **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 £1,000 through a SLA with Waste Services for the promotion of reuse.

### 6.3 Equalities

- (a) The application has been assessed in terms of how it addresses equalities. The organisation has their own Equality Policy 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) The application addresses the needs of disadvantaged groups of people in the local community.

### 6.4 Acting Sustainably

There is believed to be a positive environmental and social impact to the request from Home Basics (Tweeddale) Co Ltd. The grant will assist with:

- the safeguarding of existing employment
- encouragement of volunteering
- improvement of quality of life
- carbon reduction
- reduction of waste and maximisation of resource use
- encouragement of re-use and repair
- encouragement of recycling

### 6.5 Carbon Management

Although the subject of the request from Home Basics (Tweeddale) Co Ltd is to purchase a vehicle, the vehicle will be a new Renault 3.5 tonne Lower Height Easiloader Eco Plus which meets the Euro 6 emissions standard (September 2014).

### 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 any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

**Jenni Craig**

**Service Director Customer & Communities Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Clare Malster	Strategic Community Engagement Officer

**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: 01835-82626, Email: [communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk)