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**COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME – GENERIC BUDGET 2016/17**

**Report by Chief Executive**

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**24 MAY 2016**

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1 **This report recommends 3 applications for funding from the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) Generic Budget.**

1.2 The applications recommended for approval are:-

	<b>Applicant/Project</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Grant Request</b>
1	Heads Together – Support Grant	N/A	£1,500
2	Borders Water Rescue Team	£48,944	£5,000
3	Borders Islamic Society	£6,120	£4,270

1.3 The purpose of the application from Heads Together is to part fund the increased rental costs of the relocation to new premises.

1.4 The purpose of the application from the Borders Water Rescue Team is to contribute to the purchase of a fully adaptable 4x4 emergency response vehicle.

1.5 The purpose of the application from the Borders Islamic Society is to contribute to the start-up costs of a small Family and Community Centre to provide a range of new services.

1.6 The total budget available for 2016/17 is £12,032 and the total value of grant requests is £10,770.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **I recommend that the Committee approves a grant to the value of:-**

- (a) **£1,500 to Heads Together, on condition that the organisation revises its fundraising plans to bridge this gap in future years;**
- (b) **£5,000 to the Borders Water Rescue Team, on condition that it secures the required match funding;**
- (c) **£4,270 to the Borders Islamic Society.**

### 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. Support grants are intended to be given only once and recommendations include a standard condition that the group should review its fundraising plans as it recovers from financial difficulty.
- 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 for identified groups in the Borders.
- 3.3 The base budget for the CGS Generic Budget is £10,000. An approved ear-marked balance of £2,032 from 2015/16 provides a total budget of £12,032 in 2016/17.

### 4 APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL

#### 4.1 APPLICATION 1

<b>APPLICANT:</b>	<b>Heads Together</b>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>Support Grant</b>
<b>CGS No:</b>	<b>CGS/40/15</b>
<b>PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>GRANT REQUEST:</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
<b>GRANT RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>£1,500</b>

- (a) **Who:** Heads Together is a Borders based charity and works Borders-wide. It provides support to people who are suffering from the effects of brain injury. It brings people together to take part in a wide range of activities such as day trips, entertainment nights, craft activities, choral singing, social outings etc. It also has a respite caravan offering affordable breaks for its members and carers.
- (b) **What:** This Support Grant request is to meet the increased cost of rental following re-location to new premises at Dovemount Place, Hawick.
- (c) **Why:** The new premises were advertised on the open market and the group had a time limited opportunity to secure better, more accessible and more energy efficient premises to accommodate growing numbers and disability access issues. The increased rental amount is £2,500 annually. The group has revised its charges and its fundraising plans and has bridge some of the additional cost. However, it needs initial support for the first year of the relocation to meet the balance of the increased cost.
- (d) It is recommended to award £1,500 on condition that the group continues with its fundraising plan to ensure it can meet the full costs of rental from Year 2.

#### 4.2 APPLICATION 2

<b>APPLICANT:</b>	<b>Borders Water Rescue Team</b>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>Purchase of 4x4 Emergency Vehicle</b>
<b>CGS No:</b>	<b>CGS/05/16</b>
<b>PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>£48,944</b>
<b>GRANT REQUEST:</b>	<b>£5,000</b>
<b>GRANT RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>£5,000</b>

- (a) **Who:** Borders Water Rescue Team is a Borders based charity and works Borders wide. Specially trained volunteers, working with emergency services, provide a water related search, rescue and recovery service. It also provides safety and support services to community events, including education and training.
- (b) **What:** The request is for a project grant towards the cost of a specially adapted, Police Scotland endorsed, 4x4 emergency response vehicle. The adapted vehicle will carry 6 team members, protective equipment and stretcher as well as tow the team's equipment trailer.
- (c) **Why:** This group has no dedicated vehicle and the service relies on the use the Team members own vehicles in order to tow the equipment trailer. Available vehicles are often inappropriate to the terrain and the Team often has to reach the emergency on foot. The new vehicle will be capable of negotiating rugged terrain and flood water and will enable the Team, and the equipment, to get direct to the emergency site. The vehicle will also act as the communications vehicle, enabling improved co-ordination of the emergency services.
- (d) Match funding is expected from Robertson Trust (£10k secured), Fallago Environment Fund (£15K awaiting), Charity Begins at Home (£5k awaiting), Awards for All (£10k awaiting) and £3,944 from own funds and local business sponsorship.
- (e) It is recommended to award a project grant at £5,000 on condition that the group raises the balance of funds required.

#### 4.3 **APPLICATION 3**

<b>APPLICANT:</b>	<b>Borders Islamic Society</b>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>Family and Community Centre</b>
<b>CGS No:</b>	<b>CGS/20/16</b>
<b>PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>£6,120</b>
<b>GRANT REQUEST:</b>	<b>£4,270</b>
<b>GRANT RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>£4,270</b>

- (a) **Who:** The Borders Islamic Society was set up 2006 and is a registered charity, working Borders-wide. Its aims include the provision of services and activities to the Muslim community, promotion of religions harmony and the development of good relations between Muslims and the wider Borders community. It is committed to improving the understanding of Islam as a peaceful religion by reflecting the best of its religious, social and cultural background. The BIS is a body for community leadership and advocacy and not a religious authority.

- (b) **What:** The BIS plans to take a 5 year lease of 6 Roxburgh Street Galashiels from SBC to create a small Family and Community Centre. The accommodation comprises ground floor office space, a small kitchenette, toilet facilities and two multi-functional rooms. The project will enable a range of activities and services to be delivered. The proposed activity programme includes family gatherings, open community lunches, education programme (computer classes, programming, maths, language including Arabic lessons for all), talks, school visits, public body/Equality Forum meetings, celebration of key festivals, open days, library and craft area, a place for Friday prayers, participation in the International Exhibition Day and support for students at Heriot Watt University. A key element of the project will include support, information, befriending, networking, signposting and interpretation services for our refugees (from all cultural backgrounds).
- (c) **Why:** There were 256 Muslims registered as living in the Borders in the 2011 Census. Current estimates are now around 400 with the community potentially set to grow further as a result of refugee resettlement. The BIS has been providing support to the Borders Muslim community since 2006 through simple networking. From informal chats about work and family issues, a few men started to meet for Friday prayers, firstly in his shop premises then through an afternoon booking at Old Gala House. Women and children then joined in and support started to include advice and activities for both local and incoming Muslims. The Focus Centre in Galashiels was booked on Friday afternoons as numbers grew. Other spaces (like Langlee Complex) were used for larger events that were also attended by the wider community. In addition, the BIS has demand for school visits and educational talks, advisory input to public agencies and the Borders Equality Forum and support for refugee resettlement. The creation of a Family and Community Centre will provide a physical point of contact and improved networking and access to advice and support services that will strengthen and further develop relationships with the wider Borders community.
- (d) The project is a 'start up' project for Year 1 only with BIS sustaining all overheads from Year 2 to Year 5 of the lease. The grant will pay for rent, insurance, electricity/gas in Year 1, carpeting/flooring, toilet refurbishment and sound system. BIS will provide the match funding as in-kind.
- (e) It is recommended to award a project grant at £4,270.

## **5 BUDGET INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The CGS Generic Budget for 2016/17 is £12,032 and no awards have yet been made.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

- (a) There is sufficient funding in the CGS Generic Budget to cover the recommendations contained in this report and there are therefore no additional financial implications on the Council's resources.

### **6.2 Risk and Mitigations**

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

### **6.3 Equalities**

- (a) All applications are assessed in terms of how organisations address equalities. 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 proposals in these applications.
- (a) All three projects are open to all without restriction. The Heads Together request provides better quality support to people with a disability. The Borders Water Rescue Team request provides improved services to everyone. The Borders Islamic Society request provides new services to a minority group.

### **6.4 Acting Sustainably**

There are believed to be no social, economic or environmental impacts resulting from the recommendations in this report.

### **6.5 Carbon Management**

There are believed to be no carbon management issues relating to the recommendations of this report.

### **6.6 Rural Proofing**

Not applicable.

### **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 proposal 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 Chief Officer HR, the Clerk to the Council, Chief Executive and Communications and Marketing Manager have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

**Tracey Logan**  
**Chief Executive's Department**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:**

**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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