

Grants Committee

Wednesday 12 December 2018

7.00pm in Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Present: Councillors McGhee (Chair), Goult (Vice Chair), Latta, McNab, Reay & Watt

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McKellar.

14. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Members were asked to agree the minutes of the Grants Committee meeting held on 12 September 2018.

RESOLVED that:-

The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 12 September 2018 be agreed.

15. Declarations of Interests

Members were asked to declare any personal interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether this was prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest, and whether they intended participating in the relevant agenda item.

16. One Corby Grants

A report was presented to Committee to update on the Core and Devolved Organisations and for consideration of the Small, Arts and Health & Wellbeing Grants applications.

It was noted that the Health & Safety Audit of devolved Community Centres had been postponed to January. Eleven organisations had applied for Core funding so no short-listing was necessary and all would be invited to attend the review meeting on Saturday 19 January 2019.

A total of 16 grant applications were appended to the report for Members' consideration.

Small Grants (8 applications)

Priors Hall Park Neighbourhood Association was seeking a grant of £500 towards a PA System for their Family Fun Day. The total project cost was £3473 with the balance of funds coming from a combination of sponsorship, donations and their own funds.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £500 be approved.

Integrated Cancer Therapies was seeking a grant of £500 to support Emergency First Aid courses for their therapists and volunteers. The grant would be used for venue hire and course fees. The total project cost was £647 with the balance being met from donations and sponsorship.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £500 be approved.

Corby Running Marvels were seeking £500 for safety equipment. The application did not meet the criteria as the organisation was not constituted and did not have an appropriate bank account. Officers were providing advice and support to address these issues.

RESOLVED that:-

The application be rejected at this time.

Weldon Pre School was applying for a grant to help run a Summer fund day in June 2019. As the event was taking place in the next financial year, the applicant had been advised to reapply for that year and also to seek match funding.

RESOLVED that:-

The application be rejected at this time.

(Cllr McGhee declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the following item as the Chief Executive of this group was a fellow County Councillor. Cllr Goult took the Chair for this item.)

Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council had made an application for £496 to support their Action Hate Crime and Human Trafficking in Corby initiatives, including training sessions and a reporting network. The total cost of the project was £1174 with the balance being funded from donations and reserves.

Queries were raised in relation to the nature of the training and who this was aimed at. Officers agreed to seek clarification. The need was also questioned but it was confirmed that other public bodies such as the police were also supporting this organisation.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £496 be approved.

Corby Carnival Association was seeking £500 towards the cost of participation by marching bands and majorettes in the 2019 Carnival. The total cost of the project was £4196.75 with the remaining funding coming from donations, sponsorships and their own funds.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £500 be approved.

Corby Shed had applied for £500 towards premises for this new project aimed at providing space for men to carry out basic mechanical/electrical repair work and receive emotional support at the same time. The application did not currently meet the criteria as it was not constituted and did not have an appropriate bank account. Members felt that this project had a lot of potential and Officers confirmed they were providing advice and support to address the issues.

RESOLVED that:-

The application be rejected at this time.

Abacus Netball Club was applying for £500 towards the purchase of equipment and venue hire. The total cost of the project was £1546 with the remainder funded from fees and fundraising. Comment was made on the principal of funding sports clubs which should support themselves from fees, however, the importance of increasing participation was recognised.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £500 be approved.

Delegated Authority - it was also noted that a Small Grant of £250 (half the amount requested) had been approved under delegated authority towards the Toddler Tots Christmas event/fun day.

Arts Grants (4 applications)

Shout Theatre Group was seeking a grant of £748 to help fund projects to celebrate Shouting for 20 years. The total cost of the project was £35,788 with the majority coming from a Heritage Lottery bid (yet to be confirmed).

Comment was made that this seemed a lot of money to reach a small number of people but it was pointed out that the intention was also to create a resource for future use by schools, etc. The choice of venues was also questioned but it was felt that this was a matter for the organisation. Officers also highlighted the heritage value and the support of the Heritage Lottery (to be confirmed).

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £500 be approved, subject to confirmation of Heritage Lottery funding of £34,740 (expected 23 January 2019).

Corby Community Arts Association was applying for £675 for their 40 Year Festival Database. The total cost of the project was £1159 with the remainder mostly made up of volunteer time, together with £50 of their own time. It was noted that £225 of the £675 was for staff time and could be considered as salary which was not covered under the Grants criteria.

RESOLVED that:-

A grant of £450 be approved (ie excluding £225 for Administration).

The Corby Collective had requested a grant of £750 towards the creation of a poetry collection and delivery of performance workshops. The total project cost was £2250 with the balance being met from sponsorship.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £750 be approved.

Costello Irish Dance was seeking a grant of £700 for promotional materials for their Come & Try project. This was the total cost of the project. Some concerns were raised about this project but it was emphasised that the organisation was constituted as 'not for profit' and continued to enjoy national and international success which raised Corby's profile.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £700 be approved.

Health & Wellbeing Grants (4 applications)

Stages had requested £2000 to deliver online Mindfulness/Life courses aimed at building self esteem and confidence for those unable to attend sessions personally for various reasons. This was the total project cost. Members were happy to support the scheme but asked how clients would be identified and that the numbers reached be recorded through monitoring processes. Officer would follow up on these two areas.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £2000 be approved.

Fermyn Woods Contemporary Arts had applied for a grant of £1249 to fund a Defibrillator and case for outreach site in Fermyn Woods. This was the total cost of the project. The application did not meet the criteria as the organisation had benefited from a Small Grant in June 2018 and the site was outside Corby Borough.

RESOLVED that:-

The application be rejected.

Corby Mind was seeking a grant of £2000 to deliver two Therapeutic Courses (Self harming and Mindfulness), running each course three times. The total cost was £3080 with the balance being met from course fees. The application included £80 for refreshments which were not covered under the Grants criteria.

RESOLVED that:-

A grant of £1920 be approved (ie excluding £80 for refreshments).

iDID Adventure had applied for a grant of £2000 to run an Inclusive Bouldering Club for 12 – 19 year olds with additional mental or physical health needs. A free place would also be offered to an individual from either a deprived background or referred by the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service. The total cost of the project was £3097 with the remaining funds coming from organisational funds and Corby Climbing Centre.

RESOLVED that:-

The application for £2000 be approved.

17. 6 Monthly Progress Report on the On Line Corby Lottery

A report was presented to update Members on the performance of the Corby Lottery, introduced in April 2017.

There were now 66 approved good causes and 34 weekly draws had taken place in 2018/19. The appended Operator Report provided a detailed breakdown of the tickets sold and funds raised for individual causes and estimated the total sum raised for the year would be £33k. It was disappointing that some of the causes had never sold a single ticket despite seminars and publicity.

As in the previous year, £15k of unbudgeted funding would be returned to the Council to distribute as it saw fit. In the previous year this had been split equally between all of the approved good causes but Members may prefer to review this in the light of the lack of support to eight of the organisations. Alternatively, the funds could be added to the Grants pot but this was not fully allocated as it was.

Members requested that the state of unsupported organisations be checked (ie were they still in existence) and agreed that they should be excluded from receiving a share of the remaining funding. The option to split the funds proportionally between the remaining organisations was also considered.

Resolved that:

- i. The contents of the report be noted;
- ii. The unbudgeted funds be split equally between the supported organisations;
- iii. A further report be received in six month's time.

18. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.