

Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Leisure and Cultural Services (Introduced by the Executive Member for Life and Leisure, Councillor Cath Hoyle)	Executive Cabinet	09/03/06

## CORE FUNDING 2006/07 - AWARDS IN EXCESS OF £5,000

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding applications in excess of £5,000 for 2006/2007.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The organisations supported with Core Funding directly support the Council's priorities and the priorities set out in the Community Strategy for the Borough.

### RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	
Financial	✓	Operational	
People		Other	

- The risks relate to the loss of reputation and misappropriation of funds if the awards are seen to be made in an inappropriate way.

### BACKGROUND

- Core Funding is revenue grant aid to organisations that provide non-profit making services in the Borough that further the Council's strategic objectives and the strategic themes in the Borough's Community Plan.
- A condition of grant aid to all organisations that receive Core Funding is that they agree and sign a Core Funding Agreement. The Agreement specifies the services to be provided, the beneficiaries, the times the service is to be provided, performance measures etc.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

7. A letter and an application form were sent to previous recipients of Core Funding, plus those organisations that have enquired about Core Funding during the past 12 months. Details of the funding and the decision making process were included in the Council's Forward Plan.

## **POWERS**

8. The Executive Member for Life and Leisure has delegated power to deal with awards of Core Funding of £5,000 or less. Core Funding awards, in excess of £5,000 need to be decided by the Executive Cabinet.

## **BUDGET**

9. The total available Core Funding budget for 2006/07 is £134,251. The total value of requests amounts to £174,324.
10. If all of the recommendations to the Executive Cabinet and Executive Member for Leisure and Life are accepted, the value of the awards amounts to £134,251 - this is within the available budget.
11. In order to bring the awards in on budget, inflationary increases, when asked for, have been kept to 1.5%.

## **AWARDS FOR £5,000 OR LESS**

12. Under her delegated powers the Executive Member for Life and Leisure will be recommended to approve the following Core Funding awards for 2006/2007:
  - Victim Support, Lancashire (Chorley Branch) £2,279
  - Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council £1,000
  - Chorley Women's Centre £4,348
  - Chorley & South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service £4,100
  - Help the Homeless (Chorley) £650
  - Central Lancs Dial A Ride £2,030
  - Chorley & South Ribble Homestart £5,000
  - Lancashire Sport £4,210
13. An application from the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help for £200 towards their national costs is recommended for refusal as they have failed to demonstrate a local impact.
14. Several of the awards to be approved by the Executive Member for Life and Leisure are subject to specific conditions.

### **Applications to be Approved by the Executive Cabinet.**

15. **Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility:** Shopmobility have requested £10,300 funding for 2006/07. This is a £300 increase on their funding in 2005/06 to cover inflationary increases. The applicant contributes towards making Chorley a thriving town centre, reducing pockets of inequality and improving access to public services.

**Recommendation:** A Core Funding grant of £10,150 be awarded.

16. **Age Concern, Chorley:** Age Concern, Chorley have requested £2,420 funding for 2006/07. This is an inflationary increase on their 2005/06 funding of £2,350. Age Concern, Chorley have also asked, as in previous years, for a contribution towards their accommodation costs, this is estimated to be £3,550 for 2006/07. The applicant contributes towards the Council's long term outcomes of improving the quality of life for the Borough's older people and healthier communities.

**Recommendation:** A Core Funding grant of £2,385 be awarded plus £3,550 towards their accommodation costs, the latter via internal transfer.

17. **South Lancashire Arts Partnership (SLAP):** SLAP has requested £10,000 funding for 2006/07. This is an increase on their grant for 2005/06 of £6,695. The request for additional funding is to support the additional work the Partnership has become involved in, for example, the Town Centre music cafe project and the development of Chorley Community Centre as a resource for young people. The Partnership covers Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire and has been formed to provide economies of scale that working across the three districts provides. This makes projects more attractive for Lottery funding. The applicant contributes towards positive activities for children and young people, increasing volunteering opportunities, getting people involved in their communities and developing the character of the Borough.

**Recommendation:** A Core Funding grant of £6,795 be awarded, subject to SLAP providing analysis of activity across Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire districts and funding from each district.

18. **Chorley & District Sports Forum:** The Forum have requested £8,000 funding for 2006/07. This is an increase of £2,644 on their 2005/06 Award of £5,356. £1,500 of their award is for the Talented Individuals grant scheme which the Forum administers on the Council's behalf. The Forum was re-launched in 1999 and has developed steadily over the past five years. The increased request is based on current demand for their services. Since taking on the administration of the talented individuals grant scheme, awareness, and as a result applications, have risen. Any grant offer should be conditional upon the Forum continuing to operate robust methodology for appraising applications and a fixed budget for the year. The applicant argues that they contribute towards all of the Council's strategic objectives, and, specifically, positive activities for children and young people, reducing inequalities, involving people in their communities and improving health.

**Recommendation:** A Core Funding grant of £5,435 be awarded; subject to the Forum agreeing an appropriate methodology for assessing talented individuals applications and a fixed budget for the year with the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services.

19. **Chorley, South Ribble & Districts Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB):** The CAB has requested £90,570 funding for 2006/07. This is an increase of £25,938 on their grant for 2005/06 of £64,632. In addition, the CAB have requested that the Council continue to meet their accommodation costs. This is estimated to be £16,719 during 2006/07. The additional costs represent the full cost of operating the service. They point out that the Council's funding allows them to attract other funding to the bureaux.

Last year South Ribble Borough Council reduced their funding of the Leyland bureaux, which resulted in a reduction in the service in Leyland. The CAB have assured me that this has not impacted on the Chorley bureaux as South Ribble residents have been referred back to Leyland; this will continue to be the practice.

The CAB currently offer, in Chorley, six drop-in sessions per week, which include drop-in and appointments, and six telephone sessions run in tandem with the drop-in sessions. As a result of customer feedback, the CAB plan to change the days some of these sessions take place, but there will still be six. The CAB, in their application, state that other services provided in the Borough such as have visits for people with disabilities, outreach services delivered at the point of access and specialist services are paid for by other funding sources.

The applicant provided significant evidence to show how they contribute towards all of the Council's strategic objectives, most notably reducing pockets of inequality.

**Recommendation:** A Core Funding grant of £65,600 (to be paid in two six monthly payments, in advance) be awarded, plus £16,719 to cover accommodation costs; subject to CAB providing the same level of service during 2006/07 as they have in 2005/06, as a minimum, and maintaining the Community Legal Service Quality Mark.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

20. The grants, if approved, are within the agreed budget.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

21. There are no Human Resource implications in this report.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

22. That the recommendations in Sections 15 to 19 be approved, subject to the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services agreeing, and signing off, a Core Funding Agreement with each organisation.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

23. To provide key local organisations with Core Funding for 2006/07 to enable them to continue with their work, which contributes towards the Council's strategic objectives.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

24. Not to award Core Funding grants in 2006/07.

JAMIE CARSON  
HEAD OF LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

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