

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Introduced by the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being, Councillor Mark Perks	Executive Cabinet	29/03/07

CORE FUNDING 2007/08 - AWARDS IN EXCESS OF £5,000

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding applications in excess of £5,000 for 2007/2008.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The organisations supported with Core Funding directly support the Council's corporate 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 Health, Leisure and Well-Being 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 2007/08 is £137,280. The total value of requests amounts to £189,988 - £52,708 above budget.
10. If all of the recommendations to the Executive Cabinet and Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being are accepted, the value of the awards are within the available budget.

AWARDS FOR £5,000 OR LESS

11. Under his delegated powers the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being will be recommended to approve the following Core Funding awards for 2007/2008:
 - Victim Support, Lancashire (Chorley Branch) £2,280
 - Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council £1,000
 - Chorley Women's Centre £4,350
 - Chorley & South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service £4,250
 - Help the Homeless (Chorley) £650
 - Central Lancs Dial A Ride £2,030
 - Chorley & South Ribble Homestart £5,000
 - Lancashire Sport £4,220
 - Preston and Lancashire Survivors £400
12. The Executive Member will be recommended to refuse two applications - £5,000 from Cuerden Valley Park Trust and £350 from Chorley Pensioners Association. Both organisations are one of a number who provide greenspace and promote pensioners issues, respectively. To approve either application would set a precedent that the budget could not meet in future years.
13. 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.

14. **Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility:** Shopmobility have requested £10,500 funding for 2007/08. This is a £350 increase on their funding in 2006/07 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.

15. **The Lifestyle Centre, Chorley:** Formerly Age Concern, Chorley have requested £2,385 funding for 2007/08. This is a £35 increase on their 2006/07 funding. They have also asked, as in previous years, for a contribution towards their accommodation costs, this is estimated to be £3,700 for 2007/08. 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. Although they provide support and development services similar to other groups, the 'drop-in' social functions are different from other services and meet a specific demand.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £2,385 be awarded plus £3,700 towards their accommodation costs, the latter via internal transfer.

16. **South Lancashire Arts Partnership (SLAP):** SLAP has requested £12,000 funding for 2007/08. This is a £5,205 increase on their grant for 2006/07. 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. 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.

17. **Chorley & District Sports Forum:** The Forum have requested £8,000 funding for 2007/08. This is a £2,565 increase on their grant for 2006/07. £1,500 of their award is for the Talented Individuals grant scheme which the Forum administers on the Council's behalf. 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. Sport England are encouraging the formation of local Sport and Physical Activity Alliances as part of their single system for sport; there is funding in the region of £150,000 to be tapped into. There is potential duplication between a SPAA and Sports Forum.

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 Director of Leisure and Cultural Services and meeting with the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services to review the remit of the Forum giving the development of the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance.

18. **Chorley, South Ribble & Districts Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB):** The CAB has requested £95,677 funding for 2007/08. This is an increase of £30,077 on their grant for 2006/07 of £64,632. In addition, the CAB have requested that the Council continue to meet their accommodation costs. This is estimated to be £17,250 during 2007/08. 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.

In recent years South Ribble Borough Council have 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. The CAB, in their application, state that other services provided in the Borough such as home visits for people with disabilities, outreach services delivered at the point of access and specialist services are paid for by other funding sources, which the security of the Council's financial support allow them to access.

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

The services provided by the CAB were reviewed during the year and were found to be very well used with high levels of satisfaction. The Council's financial support to the local CAB is above average for Lancashire districts, but is not at the top of the range. However, without a more detailed analysis of what is being delivered for the grant, financial comparisons alone should be treated with caution.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £65,600 (to be paid in two six monthly payments, in advance) be awarded, plus £17,250 to cover accommodation costs; subject to CAB providing the same level of service during 2007/08 as they have in 2006/07, as a minimum, and maintaining the Community Legal Service Quality Mark.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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

RECOMMENDATION(S)

21. That the recommendations in Sections 14 to 18 be approved, subject to the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services agreeing, and signing off, a Core Funding Agreement with each organisation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

22. To provide key local organisations with Core Funding for 2007/08 to enable them to continue with their work, which contributes towards the Council's strategic objectives.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

23. Not to award Core Funding grants in 2007/08.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Carson	5815	27 February 2006	ADMINREP/REPORT