

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services	With Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	30/03/07

CORE FUNDING 2007/08 - AWARDS OF £5,000 OR LESS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding applications up to and including £5,000 for 2007/08.

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

- 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 will be decided by the Executive Cabinet at their meeting on 29 March 2007.

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 on 29 March 2007 and Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being are accepted, the value of the awards is within the available budget.

AWARDS IN EXCESS OF £5,000

11. The Executive Cabinet will be recommended to approve the following Core Funding awards for 2007/08:

• Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility	£10,150
• The Lifestyle Centre, Chorley	£6,085
• South Lancashire Arts Partnership	£6,795
• Chorley & District Sports Forum	£5,435
• Chorley, South Ribble and Districts CAB	£82,850

12. Several of the awards to be approved by the Executive Cabinet are subject to specific conditions.

APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

13. **Victim Support, Lancashire (Chorley Branch):** Victim Support have requested £3,400 funding for 2007/08. The applicant contributes towards making Chorley a safer place and getting people involved in their communities. They restructured over 12 months ago and it is not clear how this has impacted on Chorley.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £2,280 be awarded, subject to Victim Support providing satisfactory evidence of how the service in Chorley has operated following their restructure.

14. **Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council (REC):** The REC have requested £5,000 funding for 2007/08. The REC have said the increase more accurately reflects the value of their work in Chorley. The REC contribute towards reducing pockets of inequality and improving access to and take up of public services.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £1,000 be awarded.

15. **Chorley Women's Centre:** Chorley Women's Centre have requested £4,522 funding for 2007/08. This is a £172 increase on their grant for 2006/07. This is an inflationary increase. The applicant contributes towards increasing volunteering opportunities, getting people involved in their communities and reducing pockets of inequality.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £4,350 be awarded.

16. **Chorley & South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service (CVS):** CVS have requested funding for 2007/08 to cover their rent. This is the same level of support as in 2006/07. CVS support the local voluntary and community sector who, in turn, contribute to all the strategic objectives in the Community Strategy.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £4,250 be awarded; to be paid by internal transfer.

17. **Help the Homeless, Chorley:** Help the Homeless, Chorley have requested £650 funding for 2007/08, the same funding they received last year. The applicant's main contribution towards the Community Strategy is around reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities, via volunteering.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £650 be awarded.

18. **Central Lancs Dial-A-Ride:** Dial-A-Ride have requested £2,300 Core Funding for 2007/08. This is a £270 increase on their award in 2006/07. This is due to increases in fuel costs. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £2,030 be awarded.

19. **Chorley & South Ribble Homestart:** Homestart have requested £10,000 funding for 2007/08 towards the general costs of their service in the Borough. This is a £5,000 increase on their grant for 2006/07. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality, getting people involved in their communities via volunteering and improving access to public services. Homestart's external funding from Lottery has come to an end. They are looking for other funding and making arrangements to reduce the scale of their organisation if their applications fail. The Core Funding will support their base services and give some security.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £5,000 be awarded.

20. **Lancashire Sport:** Lancashire Sport have requested £5,000 Core Funding for 2007/08. This is a £780 increase on their 2006/07. Lancashire Sport state that they have asked all authorities in Lancashire for £5,000. Their main areas of contribution to the Corporate Strategy are around reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities. In the event of all other authorities contributing £5,000 we would need to consider any increased offer from the Sports Development budget.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £4,220 be awarded.

21. **Preston and Lancashire Survivors:** This is a new application. Preston and Lancashire Survivors provide structured therapy for adult survivors of childhood/adolescent sexual abuse. Although Lancashire focused, 20% of their clients come from Chorley. The level of activity would need to be monitored through the Core Funding Agreement.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £400 be approved.

22. Two new applications have been received from Cuerden Valley Park Trust, for £5,000, and Chorley Pensioners Association for £350.

Both organisations are 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.

Recommendation: The applications from Cuerden Valley Park Trust and Chorley Pensioners Association be refused.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

23. There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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

RECOMMENDATION(S)

25. That the recommendations in Sections 13 to 22 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)

26. 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

27. 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	26 March 2007	Core Funding Report 2