

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (People)	With Executive Member for Resources, Councillor Alan Cullens	29/02/08

## VILLAGE HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE GRANTS

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To approve recommendations for the allocation of the Village Hall and Community Centre Grants Fund.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- It is recommended that the following grants be approved, subject to conditions:

#### Grant amount

Charnock Richard Community Centre Trust	£25,000
Brindle Community Hall	£10,026
Adlington and District Community Association	£1,400
Croston Community Centre	£30,000
Mawdesley Village Hall	£18,000

- It is recommended that the following two applications be provisionally awarded a grant, subject to the Corporate Director (People) meeting with the applicants to ensure that there will be wider community benefits:

#### Grant amount

Mawdesley Bowling Club	£10,000
Whittle-le-Woods Playing Field Association	£11,683

- It is recommended that::
  - the application from St Mary's Village Hall, Eccleston for £10,000 be refused due to insufficient evidence of financial need; and
  - the application from Fairview Youth and Community Association for £2,500 be refused on the grounds that this can be funded from an existing commuted sum held by the Council for this purpose.
- It is also recommended that the balance of £13,891 be spent on the decoration of the Council's community centres at Eaves Green, Astley Village and Clayton Brook.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

6. The Council created a one-off grants programme of £120,000 for village halls and community centres within the Borough. An application pack, including detailed criteria, was produced and widely distributed with a closing date for applications. This report considers the nine applications that we received by the deadline and makes recommendations on how the grant scheme should be allocated. The Council's £120,000 spend will lever in a further £560,000 of resources.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

### (If the recommendations are accepted)

7. If the recommendations in this report are approved it will increase the accessibility to village halls and community centres throughout the Borough, with a resulting increase in participation in community activities.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. None.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	3	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities	3	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

## BACKGROUND

10. The Council set up a one-off capital grants scheme to support village halls and community centres. A detailed application pack, including criteria, was prepared and a closing date for applications was set. The grant scheme was widely publicised and, as a result, nine applications were received by the deadline.
11. The budget available for these projects is £120,000. The applications in total amount to £118,609.

## APPLICATIONS

12. Charnock Richard Community Centre Trust

The Trust have applied for £25,000 towards a project with a total value of £104,000. This will allow an extensive programme of improvements and refurbishment to the community centre including upgrading of kitchen and toilets. It is recommended that a grant of £25,000 be approved.

13. Brindle Community Hall

The applicant has applied for £10,026. The project has a total value of £50,134. The work will include improvements to the paved area at the front of the hall; orientation boards; improvements to the front car park, including re-tarmacing; boules court; sheltered seating area; improved access to rear car park; and provision of a sports wall providing an informal play area in wet conditions. It is recommended that the grant of £10,026 be awarded.

14. Adlington and District Community Association

The applicant has requested £1,400 towards a project with a total value of £5,646. The project is to replace toilets in the lower hall of the centre. This area is also used by two dramatic societies and dance and keep fit classes as a changing area. It is recommended that a grant of £1,400 be approved.

15. Croston Community Centre

The applicant has applied for £30,000 towards a project with a total value of £332,000. The project will be in two phases. The first phase is the purchase of a centre followed by the second phase refurbishment project. It is recommended that £30,000 be allocated towards this project.

16. Mawdesley Village Hall

The applicant has applied for £18,000 against a project with a total value of £88,000. The project involves the resurfacing of the car park and improving access. It also involves converting spare rooms for use and upgrading the kitchen facilities, lounge area and the sports facilities. It is recommended that a grant of £18,000 be approved.

17. Mawdesley Bowling Club

The applicant has applied for £10,000 against a project with a total value of £36,052. The project involves the repair and re-laying of the car park and drive area directly outside the club and the provision of disabled access for members and visitors to the club. Part of the criteria said that preference would be given to village halls and community centres. It is not completely clear from the application what the wider benefits other than to the bowling club members would be. Therefore, it is recommended that a provisional grant allocation of £10,000 be made subject to the Corporate Director (People) meeting with the applicants to ensure the wider community benefits.

18. Whittle-le-Woods Playing Fields

The applicant has applied for £11,683 against a project with a total value of £65,893. The project will involve the building of a pavilion with changing rooms, showers, toilet and kitchen facilities. As is the case with Mawdesley Bowling Club, applicants were told that priority would be given to village halls and community centres and that other buildings would need to demonstrate the wider public benefit. Again, as with Mawdesley Bowling Club, the applicant has not provided sufficient detail to demonstrate the wider community benefit. It is recommended that a provisional award of £11,683 be made subject to the Corporate Director (People) meeting with the applicant to determine the wider community benefits of this particular project.

19. St Mary's Village Hall, Eccleston

The applicant has applied for £10,000 towards a project with a total value of £337,000. This application is to build a new church hall in the grounds of St Mary's Church. The applicant failed to make a case on the grounds of financial need. Therefore it is recommended that the application be refused.

20. Fairview Youth and Community Association

The Association have applied for £2,500 towards a project with a total value of £9,987.50. The project is to improve sound proofing in the ceiling of the main hall. It is recommended that this application be refused on the grounds that the Council is in possession of a commuted sum that can be used for precisely this purpose.

## UNDERSPEND

21. Assuming the recommendations in the previous paragraph are accepted, this will leave an underspend of £13,891. It is further recommended that this money be used to complete essential decoration works at the Council's own community centres, namely Clayton Brook Village Hall, Eaves Green and Astley Village Community Centres.

## CONDITIONS OF GRANT

22. In addition to the standard clause relating to the amount of grant awarded to the individual bodies, it is also recommended that each individual applicant will be paid their grant upon evidence of expenditure and that the grant awards will be paid out pro rata to their expenditure. So, for example, if an applicant has been provided with a grant to cover 25% of the costs of the project, only 25% of any expenditure incurred will be reimbursed. This will avoid a situation where the Council's resources go into a project and then external funding is not secured. Many of the applicants have said that they will secure match funding for their projects. Again, where this has been mentioned there will be a standard clause within the offer letter saying that the grant offer is subject to their securing the external match funding.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

23. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance	3	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

## COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (TRANSFORMATION)

24. The recommendations contained within this report achieve the outcomes expected from this particular project and are within the available budget.

JAMIE CARSON  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Carson	5815	22 February 2008	Village Hall and Community Centre Capital Fund Feb 08