

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (People) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources, Councillor Alan Cullens)	Executive Cabinet	27/03/2008

CORE FUNDING 2008/09 - AWARDS IN EXCESS OF £5,000

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding applications in excess of £5,000 for 2008/2009.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the recommendations in Sections 16 to 22 be approved, subject to the Corporate Director (People) agreeing, and signing off, a Core Funding Agreement with each organisation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- This report deals with applications for Core Funding in excess of £5,000. Core Funding awards are provided to local groups whose activities contribute towards the Council's Corporate Strategy and the Community Plan. The report contains several recommendations to provide support for local groups.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To provide key local organisations with Core Funding for 2008/09 to enable them to continue with their work, which contributes towards the Council's strategic objectives and the strategic themes in the Borough's sustainable Community Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- Not to award Core Funding grants in 2008/09.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The effective allocation of awards ensures Chorley Council remains a performing organisation. The applicants, combined, contribute towards all other Corporate Priorities

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

BACKGROUND

7. 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 Sustainable Community Strategy.
8. 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.
9. Members should note that officers plan to discuss the options to align Core Funding, in future years, with grant funding other organisations, for example, Lancashire County Council and Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust.

APPLICATION PROCESS

10. 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.

POWERS

11. There are delegated powers 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

12. The total available Core Funding budget for 2008/09 is £141,430. The total value of requests amounts to £167,320 - £25,890 above budget.
13. If all of the recommendations to the Executive Cabinet and Executive Member for Resources are accepted, the value of the awards is within the available budget.

AWARDS FOR £5,000 OR LESS

14. The Executive Member for Resources will be recommended to approve the following Core Funding awards for 2008/2009:

• Victim Support, Lancashire (Chorley Branch)	£2,280
• Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council	£1,500
• Chorley Women's Centre	£4,460
• Chorley & South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service	£4,850
• Help the Homeless (Chorley)	£650
• Central Lancs Dial A Ride	£2,080
• Chorley Pensioners Associations	£350
• Preston and Lancashire Survivors	£400

14. The Executive Member will be recommended to refuse two applications. The first application is from Cuerden Valley Park Trust. The Trust are one of a number of organisations who provide greenspace. To approve this application would set a precedent that the budget could not meet in future years. The second application is from

Chorley FM who have requested Core Funding to develop training opportunities. There are other funding sources that could support this type of work. An offer of officer support will be made to support Chorley FM with funding bids.

15. Several of the awards to be approved by the Executive Member for Resources are subject to specific conditions.

APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE CABINET.

16. **Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility:** Shopmobility have requested £10,500 funding for 2008/09. This is the same level of funding as 2007/08. 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.

17. **The Lifestyle Centre, Chorley:** Formerly Age Concern, Chorley have requested £2,385 funding for 2008/09. This is the same level of funding as 2007/08. They have also asked, as in previous years, for a contribution towards their accommodation costs, this is estimated to be £3,700 for 2008/09. 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. They provide support and development services similar to other groups, and a 'drop-in' social facility that meets a specific demand.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £2,385 be awarded plus £4,200 towards their accommodation costs, the latter via internal transfer.

18. **South Lancashire Arts Partnership (SLAP):** SLAP has requested £10,000 funding for 2008/09. This is a £3,205 increase on their grant for 2007/08. 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. The Partnership employ a full time officer who coordinates much of their activity. There is uncertainty regarding funding for this post. Without the post the Partnership's capacity will be reduced.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £7,000 be awarded, subject to SLAP providing analysis of activity across Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire districts and funding from each district and SLAP providing satisfactory plans to safeguard their co-ordinator's post and maintain their delivery at the current level, as a minimum.

19. **Chorley & District Sports Forum:** The Forum have requested £6,000 funding for 2008/09. This is a £565 increase on their grant for 2007/08. £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 says 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. Over the past 12 months, Chorley Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) has developed bids for Sport

England funding. The outcome of these bids will be known towards the end of March. Further discussions are required to clarify the remit of the Forum given the SPAA bids.

Recommendation: An, in-principle, Core Funding grant of up to £5,435 be awarded; subject to the Forum meeting with Corporate Director (People) and, Executive Member, to review the remit of the Forum given the development of the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance and the allocation of grants to talented individuals.

20. **Chorley, South Ribble & Districts Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB):** The CAB has requested £69,600 funding for 2008/09. This is an increase of £4,000 on their grant for 2007/08 of £65,600. In addition, the CAB have requested that the Council continue to meet their accommodation costs. This is estimated to be £17,850 during 2008/09. The request for an above inflation increase is to contribute towards salary and pension costs. 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 last 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 £67,240 (to be paid in two six monthly payments, in advance) be awarded, plus £17,850 to cover accommodation costs; subject to CAB providing the same level of service during 2008/09 as they have in 2007/08, as a minimum, and maintaining the Community Legal Service Quality Mark.

21. **Chorley & South Ribble Homestart:** Homestart have requested £10,000 funding for 2008/09 towards the general costs of their service in the Borough. This is a £5,000 increase on their grant for 2007/08. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality, getting people involved in their communities via volunteering and improving access to public services. The increase in funding is sought to return to staffing levels they had previously. The Core Funding will support their base services and give some security.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £5,125 be awarded.

22. **Lancashire Sport:** Lancashire Sport have requested £5,125 Core Funding for 2008/09. This is a £125 increase on their grant for 2007/08. Lancashire Sport state that they have asked all authorities in Lancashire for the same amount. Their main areas of contribution to the Corporate Strategy are around reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities. Our contribution to Lancashire Sport leads to grants way in excess of our grant to Lancashire Sport.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £5,125 be awarded.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

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

COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION)

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

JAMIE CARSON
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Carson	5815	10 March 2008	Core funding in excess of £5000