

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (People)	With Executive Member for Resources, Councillor Alan Cullens	28/03/08

CORE FUNDING 2008/09 - AWARDS OF £5,000 OR LESS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding applications up to and including £5,000 for 2008/09.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the recommendations in Sections 16 to 26 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 up to and including £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. Officers plan to discuss the options to align Core Funding, in future years, with other grant funding organisations, for example, Lancashire County Council and Central Lancashire PCT.

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 IN EXCESS OF £5,000

14. The Executive Cabinet will be recommended to approve the following Core Funding awards for 2008/09:
 - Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility £10,500
 - The Lifestyle Centre, Chorley £6,585
 - South Lancashire Arts Partnership £7,000
 - Chorley & District Sports Forum £5,435
 - Chorley, South Ribble and Districts CAB £85,090
 - Chorley and South Ribble Homestart £5,125
 - Lancashire Sport £5,125
15. Several of the awards to be approved by the Executive Cabinet are subject to specific conditions.

APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

16. **Victim Support, Lancashire (Chorley Branch):** Victim Support have requested £3,670 funding for 2008/09. The applicant contributes towards making Chorley a safer place and getting people involved in their communities. They restructured over 18 months ago and it is not completely 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 and details of how the award will be spent in Chorley.

17. **Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council (REC):** The REC have requested £3,200 funding for 2008/09. 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 £1,500 be awarded.

18. **Chorley Women's Centre:** Chorley Women's Centre have requested £4,480 funding for 2008/09. 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 £4,460 be awarded.

19. **Chorley & South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service (CVS):** CVS have requested funding for 2008/09 to cover their rent. 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 £4,840 be awarded; to be paid by internal transfer.

20. **Help the Homeless, Chorley:** Help the Homeless, Chorley have requested £650 funding for 2008/09, 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.

21. **Central Lancs Dial-A-Ride:** Dial-A-Ride have requested £2,500 Core Funding for 2008/09. This is a £470 increase on their award in 2007/08. 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 £2,080 be awarded.

22. **Preston and Lancashire Survivors:** The applicant has requested £800, a 100% increase. 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 will be monitored through the Core Funding Agreement.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £410 be approved.

23. **Chorley Pensioners Association:** The Association have asked for £350 towards their general operating costs. The main areas of expenditure include room hire, speakers' expenses, newsletter and attending regional and national conferences. The Association say that they help address isolation amongst older people, thus involving people in their communities and improving equality of opportunity and life chances.

Recommendation: A Core Funding grant of £350 be awarded, subject to the applicant clarifying how it contributes to the wider work of partners, including Chorley Council, of improving outcomes for older people.

24. Two new applications have been received from Cuerden Valley Park Trust, for £3,000, and Chorley FM for £10,000.
25. Cuerden Valley Park Trust are one of a number of organisations who provide/manage green space in the Borough. To provide Core Funding for this purpose would set a precedent that the budget could not meet in future years.
26. Chorley FM have requested funding to support training for volunteers. There are other sources of funding for such initiatives. Chorley FM will be signposted to these funding sources and officer support will also be offered.

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

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

27. 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)

28. 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	24 March 2008	Core funding report less than £5,000