

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (People) (Introduced by the Executive Member for People, Councillor John Walker)	Executive Cabinet	26/03/2009

CORE FUNDING 2009/10

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding applications for 2009/2010.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the recommendations in Appendix A to this report be approved, subject to the Corporate Director (People) agreeing, and signing off, a Core Funding Agreement with each organisation awarded a Core Funding grant.
 - A report be prepared for a future Executive Cabinet meeting which reviews the use of Core Funding and the potential to work with partners to better co-ordinate financial support to local organisations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Core Funding awards are provided to local groups whose activities contribute towards the Council's Corporate Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy. 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 2009/10 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 2009/10. A reduction in Core Funding was considered as part of the wider 2009/10 Budget Consultation, but not accepted.

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. Where appropriate, conditions regarding safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults are required.
9. 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.
10. Chorley Council's Core Funding is one of a number of grant sources for community and voluntary organisations. Similar funding streams are managed by Lancashire County Council and NHS Central Lancashire. It is recommended that a review of Core Funding be carried out, with LSP partners, to ensure funding is delivered against our shared objectives, providing maximum value for money and is 'user friendly' for groups to apply for.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. 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)

12. 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

APPENDIX A

Applicant	Background	Recommendation
Chorley & South Ribble Shopmobility	Chorley & South Ribble Shopmobility have requested £20,000 funding for 2009/10. This is a significant increase on their 2007/08 award. Expenditure has been greater than their income in the last few years and they have been using reserves to balance their annual accounts. The applicant contributes towards making Chorley a thriving town centre, reducing pockets of inequality and improving access to public services.	A Core Funding grant of £10,500 be awarded.
Victim Support	Victim Support have requested £4,942 Core Funding for 2009/10. Core Funding was initially provided for Victim Support Chorley. In recent years a decision has been made to provide funding for Victim Support Lancashire. They've recently restructured again to create a national Victim Support organisation. Members have previously questioned the local nature of the project when it moved to a Lancashire footprint. Moving to a national footprint will present similar questions. The applicant contributes towards making Chorley a safer place and, potentially, getting people involved in their communities through volunteering.	No Core Funding is awarded in 2009/10, subject to clarification about the local impact the scheme has in the borough.
Preston & West Lancashire REC	Preston & Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council have requested £2,500 Core Funding for 2009/10. This is an increase on their award for 2008/09 of £1,500. The applicant states that the increase more accurately reflects the value of their work in Chorley. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and improved access to and take up of public services.	A Core Funding grant of £1,500 be awarded.
Chorley Women's Centre	Chorley Women's Centre have requested £4,548 Core Funding for 2009/10, this is an inflationary increase on their award from 2008/09. The applicant contributes towards increasing volunteering opportunities, getting people involved in their communities and reducing pockets of inequality.	A Core Funding grant of £4,460 be awarded.

Chorley & South Ribble CVS	Chorley & South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service have requested funding for 2009/10 to cover their rent of the Farmhouse to the rear of Astley Hall. The applicant supports the local voluntary and community sector who, in turn, contribute to all strategic objectives in the Sustainable Community Strategy.	A Core Funding grant of £4,165 be awarded; to be paid by internal transfer.
Chorley Lifestyle Centre 50+	Chorley Lifestyle Centre 50+ have requested £6,520 Core Funding for 2009/10. £2,250 of this is grant and £4,270 is paid by internal transfer to offset part of their rental costs. The applicant contributes towards the Council's long term outcomes for 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. The Lifestyle Centre have also requested support during a period of transition in the coming months.	A Core Funding grant of £2,250 be awarded, plus £4,270 towards their accommodation costs, the latter to be paid by internal transfer. Plus, the Council will provide additional support during their period of transition in the coming months.
The Arts Partnership	The Arts Partnership have requested £8,000 funding for 2009/10. This is a £1,000 increase on their £7,000 grant for 2008/09. The request for additional funding is to support the increased workload the Partnership has become involved in, for example, providing positive activities for children and young people. 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.	A Core Funding grant of £7,000 be awarded, subject to The Arts Partnership providing an analysis of activity across Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire Districts and funding from each district.
Help the Homeless (Chorley)	Help the Homeless (Chorley) have requested £2,000 Core Funding for 2009/10. This is a significant increase on their award in 2008/09 of £650. The applicant's main contribution towards the Sustainable Community Strategy is around reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities, through volunteering.	A Core Funding grant of £650 be awarded.
Chorley, South Ribble & District CAB	The CAB has requested £71,340 Core Funding for 2009/10. This is an increase of £4,100 on their grant for 2008/09 of £67,240. In addition, the CAB have requested that the Council continue to meet their accommodation costs. This is estimated to be £18,200 during 2009/10. The request for an above inflation increase is to contribute towards increased	A Core Funding grant of £67,240 (to be paid in two six monthly payments, in advance) be awarded, plus £18,200 to cover accommodation costs; subject to CAB providing the same level of service during 2009/10 as they have in 2008/09, as a minimum, maintaining the Community Legal Service Quality Mark and agreeing a process for the referral

of people for debt advice by the Council.

costs that the CAB have incurred, for example, salary and pension costs. In their application, the CAB point out that the Council's Core Funding allows them to attract other external funding to their service for the benefit of borough residents.

In recent years, South Ribble Borough Council have reduced their funding for the Leyland bureau, which has resulted in a reduction in the service in Leyland. In previous years we have received assurances from the CAB that this would not impact on the Chorley bureau as South Ribble residents presenting at Chorley would be referred back to Leyland. As part of the Core Funding agreement we would seek to ensure that similar arrangements are put in place for 2009/10.

The CAB currently offer, in Chorley, six drop-in sessions per week, which includes drop-in 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 allows them to access.

The applicant has provided significant evidence to show how they contribute towards all the Council's strategic objectives, most notably reducing pockets of inequality. The services provided by the CAB were reviewed 18 months ago and were found to be very well used with high levels of satisfaction. As a result of a request for information as part of last year's Core Funding awards, officers have completed an analysis of awards made to other CABs across Lancashire. This is shown in Appendix B to this report.

The introduction of various initiatives requires closer working between the Council and the CAB to help resolve issues around homelessness and those facing mortgage difficulties. In order for the Council to be as pro-active as possible in

	<p>these areas, it is essential that we have close co-operation from the CAB to provide timely debt advice on referral. It is therefore recommended that the grant recipient will provide information, advice and advocacy on matters relating to personal debt in accordance with the principles of the CAB and OFT Debt Management Guidelines. This will ensure that those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of debt are enabled to make informed decisions about their housing options. This includes both basic advice and case work relating to customers experiencing difficulties with debt. The process for referral by the Council will be set out in a protocol agreement to be mutually agreed by both parties as part of the Core Funding agreement. This will include agreed timescales, prioritisation of referrals (to ensure the delivery of money advice for people at risk of losing their homes to rent arrears or mortgage debt) and procedures.</p>	
<p>Chorley & District Sports Forum</p>	<p>Chorley & District Sports Forum have requested a Core Funding grant for 2009/10 of £5,600. This is an inflationary increase on their award for 2008/09. Within the amount they have applied for is £1,500 for the Talented Individuals grant scheme which the Forum administers on the Council's behalf. 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 contributes towards the delivery of positive activities for children and young people, reducing inequalities, involving people in their communities and improving health. With the introduction of the Chorley Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA), the Executive Member and officers have met with the Forum to develop their forward plan. This provides clarity around the respective organisations' roles and has seen the Sports Forum attract funding for the delivery of sports programmes in the borough.</p>	<p>A Core Funding grant of £5,435 be awarded; subject to robust methodology being in place and a cap placed on the grants to talented individuals.</p>

Chorley Pensioners Association	Chorley Pensioners Association have requested £350 towards their general operating costs. Their main areas of expenditure include room hire, speakers expenses, newsletter and attending regional and national conferences. The Association address isolation amongst older people, thus involving people in their communities and improving quality of opportunity and life chances.	A Core Funding grant of £350 be awarded.
Lancashire Sport	Lancashire Sport have requested £5,125 Core Funding for 2009/10. Lancashire Sport has representation from all local authorities in Lancashire. Their main areas of contribution to the Corporate Strategy are about reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities. Lancashire Sport are changing their governance arrangements at the moment and are becoming a company limited by guarantee. Our contribution to Lancashire Sport leads to grants way in excess of our funding to Lancashire Sport, for example, Lancashire Sport has been the route by which we have been able to access £170,000 of Sport England funding for delivery of the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance plan.	A Core Funding grant of £5,125 be awarded.
Home-Start Chorley & South Ribble	Home-Start have requested £5,125 Core Funding for 2009/10 towards the general cost of their service in the borough. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality, getting people involved in their communities via volunteering and approving access to public services. The Core Funding will support their base services and give some security to the organisation which will allow them to seek other external funding.	A Core Funding grant of £5,125 be awarded.
Central Lancashire Dial A Ride	Central Lancashire Dial A Ride have requested £2,500 Core Funding for 2009/10. This is an increase of £420 on their 2008/09 award. The increase is due to increased costs incurred by the applicant. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities.	An in-principle Core Funding grant of £2,080 be awarded, subject to clarification around other sources of external funding provided to the applicant.
Preston and Lancashire Survivors	The applicant has requested £800 Core Funding for 2009/10. This a £390 increase on their award of £410 for 2008/09. Preston and Lancashire Survivors provide structured therapy	A Core Funding Grant of £410 be awarded.

	<p>for adult survivors of childhood/adolescent sexual abuse. Although Lancashire focused, 35% of their clients come from Chorley. The level of activity will be monitored thorough the Core Funding agreement.</p>	
<p>Saheliyaan Asian Women's Forum</p>	<p>Saheliyaan Asian Women's Forum have requested £9,000 Core Funding for 2009/10. This is a new application. The applicant states that the Core Funding would allow the organisation to support women who are victims of domestic violence, particularly women from ethnic minority communities. However, there is a lack of detail in the application.</p>	<p>The applicant be offered support to develop their business case to support this area of work and advice be given regarding making applications for funding.</p>
<p>Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan</p>	<p>Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan have applied for £27,000 Core Funding in 2009/10. This is the same level of funding that they received in 2008/09. The applicant provides support for numerous local voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to deliver projects within the borough. Although they have a focus on environmental schemes, increasingly Groundwork are involved in other areas of work, such as education and training and positive activities for young people. In addition, as part of this funding, they provide support for Chorley Council schemes which allow us to lever in external funds that the Council would not be able to access. The applicant contributes towards improving equality of opportunity and life chances, involving people in their communities, developing local solutions to climate change and developing the character and feel of Chorley as a great place to live.</p>	<p>A Core Funding grant of £22,000 be awarded.</p>
<p>Age Concern Lancashire</p>	<p>Age Concern Lancashire have requested £18,070 Core Funding for 2009/10, this is a new application. Funding is to continue to deliver advice and support for older people. Projects previously being funded through Big Lottery Funds which have now come to an end.</p>	<p>That no Core Funding be provided in 2009/10, at this stage. Officers meet with partners, for example, Lancashire County Council and the Community Legal Service, to discuss how gaps in advice provision within the borough can be funded.</p>

APPENDIX B

Local Authority	Funding provided to CAB in 2008/09
Wigan	£425,754
Bolton	£184,170
Lancaster	£182,800
Burnley	£155,285
Pendle	£116,000
Wyre BC	£100,000
Chorley	£85,090
Rosendale	£75,000
Preston	£65,100
Blackpool	£64,503
Hyndburn	£57,000
Fylde	£56,167
Ribble Valley	£53,000
West Lancs	£46,118
South Ribble	£40,000
Blackburn	£28,824