

COMMITTEE: REGENERATION & CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY

DATE: 8TH FEBRUARY 2007

SUBJECT: GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2007

REPORT BY: POLICY & PERFORMANCE MANAGER

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING	OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the recommendations of the Grants Group of Officers in respect of applications to the Council's grant-aid programme for the financial year 2006-2007, and to seek views thereon.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee is recommended to advise the Executive to adopt the recommendations of the Grants Group of Officers in respect of the grant applications for 2006-2007, subject to consideration of any observations the Committee may wish to make.**

BACKGROUND

3. The corporate grant aid process for 2007-08 commenced in December with coverage in local papers, Luton Line and in the Voluntary Action Luton newsletter. Application forms were subsequently issued to all applicants who requested one. Furthermore, the Council's grants page on the website carried a headline advert until the closing date for applications. The application form together with supporting documentation were made available on the Council's grants page. A dedicated e-mail address was also set up to facilitate enquiries from the public.

4. 45 eligible applications were submitted by the closing date from 95 enquiries. This compares to 69 applications from 116 enquiries in 2006-07. This means 18% fewer enquiries and 34 % fewer applications were received than for 2006-07. A breakdown of the applications is given in the table below:

	No.	Total %	No.	To Fund %	No.	Refuse %
2007 applicants who also applied last year (2006)	19	42%	16	36%	3	7%
2007 applicants who did not apply last year (2006)	26	57%	17	38%	9	20%

REPORT

5. The base budget for the grant-aid programme is £76,000.
6. Attached as an appendix is a list of application forms received for 2007-08 with the recommendations of the Grants Group of Officers. Some applications are being referred to other sources of funding, where these appear to be more appropriate, and these applications will be progressed separately. Copies of all the application forms have been placed in each of the Group Rooms.
7. This year again no themes were set and all publicity and the application guidance informed readers that applications should match the Luton 2011 aims and objectives. These were included in the application pack sent out and on the grants webpage. Most applications met some Luton 2011 aims and objectives.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8. The Council's grant-aid process has a fundamental role in promoting social inclusion, in empowering and enabling communities through voluntary activity, and through assisting the provision of services by and for less advantaged sections of the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The recommendations made by Officers are accommodated within a cash-limited budget of £76,000. Any alterations to those recommendations should remain within that cash-limit. These financial implications were agreed by the Finance Manager (Corporate & Customer Services) on 24 January 2007.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 24 January 2007.

CONSULTATION

11. The Portfolio Holder for Citizenship has been informed of the recommendations of Grants Officers. A report will be submitted for consideration by the Executive on 16 March 2007.

APPENDICES

12. Appendix A - Summary of recommendations for grant-aid
13. Appendix B – Grants Officers' summaries of applications for grant aid

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

14. Application forms and supporting information provided by voluntary organisations held by officers in the Grants Group. Please contact the report author if required.
15. Summary reports on each application (Exempt information within the meaning of Section 100A of and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.)

APPENDIX A

Summary of Recommendations for grant aid 2007-08

	Grant Ref	Amount of grant requested	Grant Officer Recommendation
Luton Pensioners Association	CG03	£550	£550
Pakistani Kashmiri Youth Forum	CG06	£8,500	£5,000
Cats Protection Luton Branch	CG10	£6,000	Nil
Mitalee Youth Association	CG14	£10,000	£5,000
ACCDF	CG16	£8,000	£1,500
Bedfordshire African Support Project	CG19	£4,700	£4,700
Alzheimers Society South Beds	CG20	£5,000	Nil
LAMP (Luton Accommodation & Move-on Project)	CG21	£4,920	Nil
Luton U3A	CG23	£1,000	£500
High Town Methodist Church	CG24	£3,000	Nil
Luton Sea Cadets Corps	CG27	£730	£560
Bangla Desh Youth League	CG28	£5,000	£1,500
Crescent Summer School project	CG30	£5,000	£5,000
Rongdhonu Bangla School	CG32	£2,916	Nil
Centre for African Families Positive Health	CG35	£5,742	£1,000
Girls Youth Project	CG38	£9,460	£1,000
John Grooms	CG41	£3,000	£2,000
Khidmat	CG44	£30,000	£5,000
Ghar Se Ghar	CG48	£4,366	£1,000
New Creations	CG49	£1,968	£1,000
Dunstable and Luton Counselling Service	CG50	£1,000	Nil
SAHEYLIE Asian Women's Friendship Group	CG54	£2,742	£700
Bushmead Disabled Bowling	CG55	£8,079	£2,000
Four Winds Social Club	CG59	£5,000	£750
Friends of Bright Eyes Project	CG60	£11,070	£5,000
Wardown Friendship Club	CG61	£700	£700
Limbury 50+ Group	CG62	£3,240	£1,740
LSWE	CG63	£36,507	Nil
Luton Turkish Community	CG64	£15,000	Nil
Bengali Hindu Cultural Association	CG65	£24,000	£1,200
Cruse Bedfordshire	CG66	£2,500	Nil
The SALTO Foundation Limited	CG67	£5,000	£5,000
One Nation	CG71	£5,000	Nil
Luton Mela Group	CG77	£5,000	£2,500
Vitalise	CG78	£1,390	£1,390
Islamic Education & Community Centre	CG80	£10,000	Nil
Beds African Community Centre	CG81	£4,130	£4,130
Luton Equalities Agency	CG82	£15,000	£7,500
African Caribbean arena (ACA)	CG83	£7,000	£1,500
Luton West Indian Community Association	CG86	£15,632	£2,000
The Happy Wanderers	CG90	£4,000	Nil

Breathe Easy Luton	CG92	£250	£250
Rainbow Special Needs Playscheme	CG93	£3,000	Nil
Bengali Women's Project	CG94	£7,150	£1,000
Pakistan Heritage Foundation	CG95	£3,800	£800
Total			£73,470