

Report for Resolution

Report to Executive
10 March 2010

Report of Head of Communications and Cultural Services

Subject Grant to the voluntary and not for profit sectors

10

Purpose

To recommend grant awards from budgets for the financial year 2010 / 2011

Recommendations

To award grants for the financial year 2010 / 2011 totalling £272,122

1. £10,000 to Age Concern and that Age Concern moves to a three year funding agreement
2. £8,240 to BTCV and that BTCV moves to a three year funding agreement
3. To defer the award to the Central Norwich Residents Forum
4. To defer the award to Gurdwara Shri Guru Ramdas Prakash
5. £56,872 to Norwich CAB and that Norwich CAB moves to a three year funding agreement.
6. £9,696 to the Norwich Fringe Project and that the Norwich Fringe Project moves to a one year funding agreement.
7. £12,977 to the Norwich Puppet Theatre and that the Norwich Puppet Theatre moves to a three year funding agreement.
8. £142,500 to the Norfolk and Norwich Festival and that the Norfolk and Norwich Festival moves to a three year funding agreement.
9. £10, 579 to the Norfolk and Norwich Racial Equality Committee and that the Norfolk and Norwich Racial Equality Committee moves to a three year funding agreement,
10. £1,500 to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust moves to a three year funding agreement.
11. £5,000 to The Garage and that the Garage moves to a one year funding agreement.
12. £14, 758 to The Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust and that the Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust moves to a one year funding agreement.

Financial Consequences

The grants awarded fall within the budget the council has set for grants.

Risk Assessment

Each grant has been given an individual risk rating as part of the assessment process.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priorities: "Opportunities for all – communities to be able to access the wide range of services in the city provided by the Council": "Safe and healthy neighbourhoods – working in partnership with residents to create neighbourhoods where people feel secure, where the streets

are clean and well maintained, where there is good quality housing and local amenities and where there are active local communities” and “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future”

Executive Member: Cllr Steve Morphew

Ward: All

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

None

Report

1. As members are aware each year, the council supports the voluntary and not-for-profit sector by awarding a number of grants each year. Discretionary grants of up to £1,000 are awarded from a separate fund.
2. The financial risk of each application is assessed by the appropriate director or the head of the service. Members will note that some organisations may have income greater than their expenditure. In these cases the income includes reserves.
3. Further details of each of the organisations listed in the recommendations and the reasons for recommending each grant are contained in the main body of the report.
4. References in the report to commitment on the part of the council to grant funding beyond the coming financial year are, it should be stressed, not legally binding obligations (it is not possible for discretionary expenditure to be contractually bound in this way) but are non binding declarations of intent on the council's part.
5. Members should also note that if any grant is discontinued for reasons of poor performance, lack of financial stability of an organisation or because the council has budgetary pressures, the council will give a three month notice period.

Age Concern Norwich

About the Organisation

Age Concern Norwich exists to improve later life for the citizens of Norwich, through the provision of advice, direct services, opportunities for volunteering and enabling the voice of older people to be heard.

This is provided irrespective of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, faith, neighbourhood or income.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£574,707	£575,165	£10,000	%17

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£10,000	0	£10,000

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

The grant is to assist the provision of benefit advice for older people. In the year up to March 2009 benefits advisors visited 796 clients carrying out 369 benefit reviews and assisting with 534 claims. 80% of clients are from the Norwich City Council area.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will assist in the provision of benefits advice, especially with the increasing numbers of direct referrals that are being made from city council front-line staff. It will also assist in the provision of outreach locations around the city.

Commitment to the Organisation

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

This will be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £10,000 is awarded to Age Concern and that Age Concern moves to a three year funding agreement.

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

About the Organisation

British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) is the leading nationwide conservation volunteering charity. It aims to encourage people to become involved in improving their environmental and learning new skills and does this through organising practical tasks and training courses and working with local community groups.

At a local level, BTCV works with approx 450 volunteers drawn from a range of backgrounds including people with disabilities or social problems. This figure is

expected to increase as the new “Green Gym” project develops locally. BTCV volunteers carry out work on many city council owned sites.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£18,632	£18,883	£12,000	64%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£8240	£3453 (rate relief)	£12,000

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

It is anticipated that 75% of Norwich residents will benefit from the work carried out by the BTCV by being able to access volunteering opportunities; access to free physical and mental health improvement activity and by enjoying improved greenspaces in Norwich.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will contribute towards the running costs of the project, for example, volunteer travel, tools replacement, personal protective equipment, volunteer training, publicity, staff support, insurance and management.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

This will be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £8240 is awarded to BTCV and that BTCV moves to a three year funding agreement.

Central Norwich Residents Forum

About the Organisation

The Central Norwich Residents Forum (CNRF) is a vehicle for the residents living within the city walls to voice their concerns, share their ideas and have a say in the development of the city centre in a sustainable and effective way.

The City Centre Residents Forum constitution formally sets out the area covered by the Forum, the election process and the rules for the conduct of the Forum's meetings. The members of the Forum reflect the diversity of the people of Norwich City Centre and seek to represent their views to the city council, the county council as well as work with other agencies with and interest in the city centre.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
		£3000	

No figures supplied

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£5000		£3000

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

All Norwich residents who live in the city centre.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will be used to produce a quarterly newsletter and convening monthly meetings.

Commitment to the Organisation.

N/a

Risk to the Council

N/a

Recommendation

To defer the decision to award a grant

The CNRF are one of the remaining community power forums that over the years have been active in the city centre. In recent years the group have been sustained in one off grants to largely cover the running expenses of an office which has since been relinquished. This is now provided by the private sector and their costs have therefore reduced.

The group have been offered support by the city centre community engagement officer to develop their role and committee membership base as this at present is very small.

The group has a specific focus of the Norwich Licensing Forum, City Centre Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel and City Centre Management Partnership. However, whilst the grant application refers to the group potentially representing 10,000 or so adults, it is unclear how the group is representative of city centre communities.

Whilst the offer of support has been made, officers are unaware of how the groups wishes to develop, how it might work with other resident groups in the city centre and how it might secure funding from other sources.

Until this work is completed it is recommended that the group is not funded from the core grants budget but the application be passed for consideration by the small grants panel for a one off community grant tied to an agreement to prepare a development plan.

Gurdwara Shri Guru Ramdas Prakash

About the Organisation

The Sikh Community of Norfolk and Norwich would like to open a Gurwara / temple/ Community Centre in Norwich with the aim to '*bring the community together and to give other cultures the opportunity to get involved in and understand our religion better*'. As the nearest temple is 40 miles away, the Sikh Sangat (management committee) current meet about once a month in each others houses. Due to the growing diversity of Norwich, it is felt that the Sikh community is in need of a place of worship for future generations for them to understand and uphold their religion.

The organisation has already taken out a mortgage on the building and has a monthly membership fee of £25 as well as a one off payment required of either £250 or £500 depending on identified circumstances.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£70,358.72	£78,055.00		

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
0	0	

No amount has been requested for the work.

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

Residents of Norwich may benefit from attending the temple by increasing their understanding of the Sikh religion. If religious or cultural awareness activities take place then this may contribute to the National Indicator 1 '% of people from different backgrounds getting on well together'.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will be used to enable the applicants to extend the existing building on Old Palace Road to allow for disabled access. A new gas supply, complete with internal gasworks and fittings is also required. Quotes have been supplied for all work to be done.

Commitment to the Organisation.

N/a

Risk to the Council

The key risk to the council is in providing funding for an organisation whose primary goal is to promote their religious belief. It would however be discriminatory to not provide funding for an organisation based solely on their religious beliefs. Therefore our main interest is whether an applicant can provide direct evidence of activities, events or educational programmes which are aimed at improving cultural awareness and cohesion. Although there is evidence that the applicants have an understanding of what our community goals are, it is unclear how they plan to address them. It would not be enough to say that non Sikhs are welcome to visit the community temple. How do the applicants intend to encourage communication

and participation in educational activities? What if any cultural activities are planned?

Disability access may be a core funding option, but the council does not have the funds or obligation to carry out private or voluntary sector DDA compliance for access to buildings, and in any case may not be able to contribute enough funding to have an impact on the outcome. There are also not enough quotes provided to ensure that the procurement process is robust, and we would expect three quotes for each of the planned building works outlined.

The group was constituted in 2006 but does not have the required policies in place.

Recommendation:

To defer the decision to award a grant and that the organisation:

- re-apply for core grant funding, but with detailed plans on what free cultural or educational activities they will undertake which reach out in the wider community and emphasise cohesion
- contact the NNREC or Voluntary Norfolk for help and support in developing the required policies
- provide at least three quotes for each of the planned building works outlined.

Norfolk and Norwich Race Equality Council

About the Organisation

Norfolk and Norwich Race Equality Council is a charity and company limited by guarantee that has been in existence in Norwich since 1993. Their aims and objectives are:

- to work towards the elimination of racial discrimination; promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups
- to tackle discrimination, hate crime and promote human rights and build community cohesion.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£207, 225	£224, 931	£10, 579	4.7

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£10, 579	Nil	£10,579

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

60% of NNREC services are delivered in Norwich

What will the grant be used for?

Providing assistance, advice, guidance and support to assist Norwich City Council to meet their public duty under equalities legislation

To improve community consultation, promote good relations with different community groups, to build strong, prosperous and cohesive city.

Training, advice and support input in line with the multi agency protocol to create safe and healthy neighbourhoods and reduce tension.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

NNREC are a well established charitable organisation, with links across the public sector advocating on equalities duties. Although the grant may appear to be an insignificant contribution to their funds, as it is not restricted to providing a particular service, there is some flexibility on how it is spent.

Recommendation

That a grant of £10,579 is awarded to the NNREC subject to the following conditions:

- that a formal grant funding agreement be instigated, with agreed objectives
- that NNREC ensures child protection training of staff working directly with children and young people
- that NNREC in the future provide evidence of consultation with its own service users
- that an annual spending and outcomes report is requested,
- a named officer of the council be appointed to whom NNREC submits the reports
- that a review of representation on the NNREC Board be made to ensure appropriate officers are present.

Norwich CAB

About the Organisation

Norwich & District Citizens Advice Bureau provides a general holistic advice and advocacy service on a wide range of subjects including welfare, benefits, consumer rights, taxation, debit and credit, housing and employment problems. Specialist casework is also provided in respect of debit and welfare benefits. A solicitor rota scheme is also provided as well as access to an employment law panel.

The Bureau also provides information and training to the public on rights, responsibilities and entitlements. The work of the bureau is used to influence social policy work including campaign work to achieve lasting benefits for clients.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£1,072,748	£1,202,488	£99,682	9%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£99,872 inc £43,000 for debt casework service	0	£99,682

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc
52% of enquiries are from Norwich residents.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will contribute to the funding of the core generalist advice service and will enable a debt caseworker dedicated to the needs of Norwich people to be retained.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

This will be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £56,872 is awarded to Norwich CAB and that Norwich CAB moves to a three year funding agreement. Refer approval for a one off payment of £43,000 to the executive meeting on 24 March where the financial inclusion action plan will be endorsed.

Norwich Fringe Project

About the Organisation

The Norwich Fringe Urban Project was set up in 1990 and covers an approx 4 mile radius around Norwich. It is managed by Norwich City Council with additional funding from Broadland, Norfolk and South Norfolk Councils and the Broads Authority.

The project carries out a wide range of work including conservation and landscape, improving opportunities for quiet recreation and contributing to wider projects and initiatives. Public participation is actively encouraged in all the projects activities and it also offers the highly successful Central Norfolk Heath Walks Project, which is externally funded.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£63,013	£63,014	Upto £15,008	22%

(Based on 2010/11 budget forecast figures supplied)

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£9696	0	£13894

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

It is estimated that 30 – 40% of Norwich residents use the services provided by the Norwich Fringe Project.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant would be spent on the core funding of the project:
Salaries, training, office costs, vehicle leasing and running costs.

Commitment to the Organisation

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

This will be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £9696 is awarded to the Norwich Fringe Project and that the Norwich Fringe moves to a three year funding agreement.

Norwich Puppet Theatre**About the Organisation**

Norwich Puppet theatre specialises in the performance of puppet theatre, aiming to provide enjoyment, excitement and challenge for all ages. Norwich Puppet Theatre has the most comprehensive facilities for puppetry and theatre of animation and is the only puppet theatre in England outside London. It works in partnership with Norwich City Council through Kidszones and Openstages, HEART, Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Screen East and Norwich International Animation Festival to provide an entertaining and challenging programme of theatre at the home venue, in outreach work and whilst on tour.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£141,920	£234,991	£13,000	.06%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£12,977	£3104 (rate relief)	£13,000

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

The theatre is unique in the region in providing good quality year round family entertainment. The venue is used as an educational resource and concessionary pricing, such as Go4Less, enables people on low income to attend.

37% of ticket purchasers live in the NR1 – 8 districts

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will be used as core revenue funding to provide a stable infrastructure from which educational, artistic and creative work can develop.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be a one year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

This will be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £12,977 is awarded to the Norwich Puppet Theatre.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival

About the Organisation

The Norfolk and Norwich Festival, which is the oldest city festival in the country and one of the largest international festivals, takes place annually over a period of 16 days.

The festival works in partnership with many city organisations to promote and extend the cultural provision within the City. The emphasis of the festival has also changed to incorporate free events, including a family day, and more work in schools. It has grown over the past two years to incorporate Contemporary Art Norwich and its two long standing activities, the May festival and Norfolk Open Studios reached wider audiences and involved a broader range of artists than ever before. Festival ticket sales for 2009 are up by 19% and audience participation numbers have increased from 100,000 in 2008 to over 175,000 in 2009. 91% of ticket sales are from within Norfolk with the remaining 9% outside of Norfolk.

NNF are developing a 10 year vision which will take them to 2012 and beyond and will reinforce Norwich as a destination festival and place them firmly on the map as a centre of capital excellence.

The festival is working with cultural development and community development to encourage engagement in the Go 4 Less scheme and participation in Neighbourhoods.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£527,583	£1,803,480	£142,500	8%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£142,500	£3,880 (rate relief) £275 (open space hire)	£142,500

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

At least 47% of Norwich residents (current audience 29,000) have been able to access high quality arts and cultural programming whilst 15980 Norwich residents attended free events throughout the festival. The festival is a major contributor to the economic wellbeing of the city with restaurants, pubs and hotels increasingly full during the festival fortnight. The festival has also been partners in the City of Culture bid.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will contribute to the core organisation operating costs including staffing, facilities, marketing and overheads, annual visual arts programme within the festival, artistic and production fees for NNF May 2010, contribution to Norfolk Open Studios for Norwich based artists, community engagement including free events and marketing discounts.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation

Risk to the Council

This will be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £142,500 is awarded to the Norfolk and Norwich Festival and that the festival moves to a three year funding agreement.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

About the Organisation

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust was established in 1926 and was the first county wildlife trust. It has over 25,000 members, 40 nature reserves (some of which have visitor centres) and is the leading wildlife conservation organisation in Norfolk.

The Trust is a key partner in the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership and it actively campaigns on wildlife issues throughout the county.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£3406,204	£3741,004	£1800	.0005%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£1500	80% rate relief	£1800

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

It is unknown how many Norwich residents would benefit directly from the service, but potentially all Norwich residents will benefit by the enhancement of natural green spaces within Norwich.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will be used to survey new Norwich sites as agreed with Norwich City Council, re-survey/advise on existing sites and monitor and advise on site conditions.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be a three year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council.

This will be a low risk to the council

Recommendation

That a grant of £1500 is awarded to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust moves to a three year funding agreement.

The Garage**About the Organisation**

The Academy Trust aims to provide innovative and exciting experiences for the communities, particularly young people of Norwich and Norfolk. Their work focuses on tackling social inclusion and promotes access to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. They work in partnership with other key organisations and support key and national strategies such as Every Child Matters, Youth Matters and the CoNP Sustainable Community Strategy.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£650,549	£635,667	£10,000	1.6%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£5,150	£3880 (rate relief)	£10,000

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

The majority of people who use the facilities at The Garage live in the greater Norwich area and account for around 80% of participants.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will help underpin the costs of developing and promoting The Garages Creative Drive programme to young people across Norwich. Associated costs include management staff, marketing materials, recruitment activities such as outreach workshops and practitioners fees.

(Creative Drive is aimed at young people with elements which support learning and participation at all ages. The programme encompasses a range of provision from taster experiences through to 'first rung learning', accredited courses and professional development.)

Commitment to the Organisation.

This would be a one year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

This would be a low risk to the council.

Recommendation

That a grant of £5000 is awarded to the Garage Trust.

The Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust

About the Organisation

The Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust Limited is a Company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, with a Board of elected specialists who meet monthly to make policy and financial decisions. The trust operates with 102 volunteers and 12 paid staff (4 office and 8 casual events staff).

Organisation objectives:

- conserve & maintain Dragon Hall (Grade I Listed medieval building of importance to Norwich in Heritage and Tourism/economy terms)
- make building accessible to all as heritage attraction
- provide education programmes (formal & informal)
- ensure recognition as an asset in Norwich
- encourage more usage as a cultural destination with wider uses for venue for performance arts, corporate events etc.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£207,672	£246,939	£14,758	6%

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£14,758		£14,758

Relevant/ Performance Information e.g. How many people will benefit etc

If Dragon Hall is sustained in its current use the following people will benefit:

- 12 staff jobs maintained
- 102 volunteer roles maintained
- learning opportunities for school parties and general public and tourists
- cultural/art/music/ceremonial venue opportunities for general public
- economic opportunities for the city as a whole, as this building is an important tourist attraction
- building Conservation opportunity for the city, as this building is a grade I listed building of international significance with limited flexibility for alternative uses and requires high levels of sensitive maintenance, which the Trust is qualified to provide.

It is anticipated that the service is used by up to 80% of Norwich residents.

What will the grant be used for?

To help the trust safeguard the city's asset by contributing towards promotion and marketing of Dragon Hall (to attract more visitors and therefore income) and contribute towards staff salaries and general running costs.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This will be one year commitment to the organisation.

Risk to the Council

The Norfolk and Norwich Heritage Trust are leasing the building from the council and are currently the best-placed tenants to be effective custodians of this council owned building.

The trust has specialists in historic building conservation, finance/fundraising and marketing. Having completed a restoration of the historic building and constructed a modern building for visitors facilities using HLF and various other funding sources (benefiting the city's building portfolio), the trust now need support whilst they actively market themselves to wider user groups.

- However, the trust owe the council £19,026 which is a result of a missed payment for staffing costs during the redevelopment of the project and are seeking ways to pay this back. The current financial position of the trust is being closely monitored.

This short term support grant will be less risky, financially, than the alternative of the folding of the Norfolk and Norwich Trusts involvement in safeguarding the future of this council owned building and keeping it open to the public as an important attraction, supporting Norwich's cultural, tourist and economic functions.

Recommendation

That a grant of £14,758 is awarded to The Norfolk and Heritage Trust with a further review after six months. This payment to be made in two instalments.