

Report for Resolution

Report to Executive
7 January 2009
Report of Head of Communications and Cultural Services
Subject Wensum Valley Trust

8

Purpose

To recommend a grant for Wensum Valley Trust (WVT) from budgets for the financial year 2008/09

Recommendations

That a grant of £8,000 be made to the Wensum Valley Trust.

Financial Consequences

The grants awarded fall within the 2008/09 budget the Council has set for grants.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to achieve all of the Council's strategic objectives.

Executive Member: Councillor Morphew - Leader of the Council

Ward: Wensum

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. 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 Appendix.
4. The Appendix also shows how the Council supports organisations through discretionary rate relief.
5. 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.

About the Organisation

The Wensum Valley Trust was established at a public meeting in March 2007. It succeeds the Wensum Valley Project, which had been supported by Norwich City Council since it was set up in 1988. The Wensum Valley Trust's overall objective is to 'promote conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment'

The WVT already delivers useful outputs such as on site management, public involvement and education, advice on planning issues.

Budget Information

Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Amount of grant requested	Grant as a % of gross income
£	£	£	%
£32,254	£64,219	£8,000	12.46

Grant last year	Other monies from Council	Grant applied for
£7,545	0	£8,000

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

There are currently 22 regular volunteers with other volunteers involved on a one off or occasional basis. Work potentially benefits a significant percentage of the Norwich population who use or live near the Wensum Valley. Work of the WVT enables Norwich City Council to achieve their performance targets for example, Improved Local Biodiversity.

What will the grant be used for?

The grant will be used for core activities such as conservation and access improvement works, publicity and promotion and public events. It will also be used to fund management work as specified by Norwich City Council's Natural Areas Officer.

Commitment to the Organisation.

This is to be paid out of the 2008/09 grants budget until 2010 to bring it in line with the other grants renewals.

Risk to the Council

The financial risk to the council would be one years funding contribution if the WVT were to be wound up. The Trust has public liability insurance and all works would be monitored by the Councils Natural Area Officer.

Recommendation:

Recommend to approve this grant