

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 2 July 2012

Report Title: Application for Grant - Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust

Report By: Sandra Garner
Chair, Foreshore Trust Grants Advisory Panel

Purpose of Report

1. To note the recommendation made by the Grant Advisory Panel on the application for grant funding received from the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To note the points raised by the Grants Advisory Panel in respect of applications for funding which fall outside of the agreed "Small" Grants process and parameters.**
- 2. To note the recommendation made by the Grants Advisory Panel in respect of an application for funding received from the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust.**

Reasons for Recommendations

To seek further advice as to how the Grants Advisory Panel should proceed with the handling of applications for funding which fall outside of the agreed "Small" Grants process and parameters.

Background

1. At its meeting on 24 April 2012, the Charity Committee considered a Report from Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy, which made the following recommendations: -
 - 1) To agree in principle the granting of a 20-year lease at a peppercorn rent to the Hastings Pier Charity or the Hastings Pier and White Rock Baths for the installation and occupation of a moveable single storey structure on that part of promenade that lies between the western light well and the escape stair of the White Rock Baths, such agreement in principle being subject to:
 - a) Consultation with the Coastal Users Group
 - b) Planning and Building Regulations consents
 - c) The main terms and conditions set out in Section 15 of this report
 - 2) To delegate to the Estates Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Foreshore Trust the finalisation and completion of the lease.
 - 3) To permit the installation of a tank within the western light well as part of a discrete foul drainage system for such structure, which is to serve initially as a community showroom for the lessee.
 - 4) To ask the Grants Advisory Panel to consider and make recommendations on a request for an investment of £25,000 by the Foreshore Charitable Trust in the costs of installing the facility.
2. The request for investment referred to in 4) above was then considered by the Grants Advisory Panel at its meeting on 22 May 2012.
3. Subsequent to this meeting, the Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel, wrote to the newly appointed Chair of the Charity Committee on the 26 May 2012 as follows: -

The Panel met earlier this week to consider the applications that had been received for the 2nd round of grants from the Foreshore Trust. At this meeting we also received a presentation from Monica Adams-Acton, (Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy at Hastings Borough Council) in relation to a request from The Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust (HRWRT) for an investment of £25,000 from the Foreshore Trust. We were asked to consider this request and make a recommendation.

The Panel has been told consistently that the annual budget available from the Foreshore Trust for making grants to the voluntary and community sector is £50,000. We distributed this amount in the first round of grants in 2011 and are in the process of distributing funds for 2012. We have always adopted an open and transparent process in the distribution of these funds. The Panel was therefore surprised to learn that more money was potentially available amounting to an additional 50% of our budget and that this allocation was being considered for a single organization. We feel that there needs to be a clearly

understood process whereby groups can apply for any additional funding that becomes available. In the light of this the Panel members declined to consider the application from HPWRT. The Panel also requests a written response on the issues we have raised.

4. The Grants Advisory Panel met the Chair of the Charity Committee and the Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy informally at a meeting on 20 June 2012, when the application for funding from the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust was again considered.
5. The Grants Advisory Panel, whilst acknowledging that consideration of such applications is within its remit, again felt that it had no agreed parameters or process for considering applications for grant funding of amounts larger than £5,000, so agreed that it could not make a recommendation in respect of the Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust application at this time.
6. The Grants Advisory Panel therefore asks the Charity Committee for its advice on what parameters should be set for processing applications of grant funding greater than £5,000 and what processes it should apply to administering such grants.

Policy Implications

7. The requirements to monitor the take up and potential impact of services in terms of equality of opportunity is fully in line with the Foreshore Trust's equalities policy.
8. The Foreshore Trust's Grants Programme is a new funding regime that will impact positively on the economic and financial environment in the Borough, and will assist organisations in delivering a range of activities for local people.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	Yes

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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