

## Briefing on Cambridge City Community Grants for 2015/6

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The hand-out read as follows:

All applications must demonstrate that the funding will reduce social and/or economic inequality by removing barriers for City residents with the most need, to enable them to access one or more priorities. The grant priorities are:

1. Sporting activities
2. Arts and cultural activities
3. Community development activities. (These were described as activities which bring people together, for example people who would not otherwise get out.)
4. Legal and/or financial advice
5. Employment support

Or

6. Capacity building of the voluntary sector to achieve the above. (This was described as “groups which help other groups” so presumably FeCRA and CCA fall into this category)

PLUS

Achieving the Primary Outcome which is to reduce social/or economic inequality for those with the highest needs

PLUS

Achieving one or more of the following outcomes:

1. Improved health and wellbeing
2. Communities come together and bring about change
3. More people have better opportunities to gain employment
4. Stronger voluntary sector in the city.

There will be a significant reduction in the funds available. The budget for 2015/6 will be down to £900,000 from the current budget of £1.2 million. Out of that budget, £80,000 will go to Area Committees. The community development and arts and recreation funds will close this year.

The crucial point of a grant is that it must help reduce inequality. Also, it is strictly only for the benefit of City residents, not for people who live in South Cambs or beyond. For projects that cross borders, it seems that there can only be a grant which represents the value of the project to city residents participating.

To be eligible for a grant, the project must produce one of the approved outcomes. The application must make clear the difference the project will make to people. The time-table must be strictly adhered to, and late applications will not be accepted. There will be far more meticulous scrutiny of applications which must be fully completed and supported by the necessary documents.

The scheme is being launched next week, and the closing date for applications for main grants is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. (For Area Committees, see below). The team will work through the applications with the Executive Councillor, Richard Johnson, and have recommendations ready to go to the committee by mid-December. The Scrutiny Committee will consider them at a meeting in mid-January.

Area Committees will follow a similar process. The time-table is not yet set, but applications will be due sometime in January, and will go to the committees between January and March. Area Committee grants will be aligned to the same activities and objects.

Main grants are those for city-wide projects, whereas area committee grants are for projects in that particular area. There will be two application forms depending on whether the application is for above or below £5000. There will be a simpler form for the smaller grants.

It was suggested that if there is doubt whether a particular project qualifies, one of the grants team should be asked for guidance before an application is made.

Partnership bids can be made and are in fact encouraged, namely applications by similar groups working for similar beneficiaries. There needs to be one lead organisation.

It was clear that:

- Many projects which were previously eligible for grants will no longer be eligible,
- Grants will rarely be made to cover the whole cost and it will be a contribution only. Consideration will be given to the applicants' financial resources and therefore whether the grant is needed.
- There will be competition for grants, with more applications being expected than they have resources to meet.

*The above note was provided by Clive Brown following the meeting at the Meadows Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014.*