

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of Lynda Turner, Executive Member for Localism, Community & Environmental Services

To: CMT 30th July 2012
Executive Board 06th August 2012
Cabinet 04th September 2012

(Author: Mark Fretwell - Partnership Officer)

Subject: Grant Panel Report Round 2, 2012/13

Purpose: This report summarises the funding recommendations that were made by the Grant Panel for round 2 of the 2012/13 financial year which was held on Wednesday 27th June 2012 and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the allocation of Match Funding.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve the match funding applications for:

- Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4) – (£15,000)
- Breckland Support Programme in Norfolk – (£40,000 in total (£20k per annum over the 2 year period 2012-2013 & 2013-2014)

Note for information the following match funding applications which have been approved by delegated decision:

- Thetford Dolphins – (up to £2,000)
- Norfolk Dance - (up to £3,000)
- Foxley village Hall - (up to £4,800)
- Swaffham Community Transport Project – (up to £4,925)
- Brecks Food & Drinks Festival – (£1,000)

Note for information the two grants awarded under the Gifted & Talented Grant scheme.

1. BACKGROUND

To ensure a joined up strategic approach is taken when awarding grants, the grant panel meeting on Wednesday 27th June 2012 has made some recommendations on the following applications.

Match Funding:

Seven (7) applications for Match Funding have been submitted to Breckland Council prior to the Grant Panel meeting. The Grant Panel would like two (2) of these applications to be considered by Cabinet for funding and five (5) of the applications to be noted for information purposes only.

Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4):
(Note: Further information contained within appendix 1)

An application received to enhance and enable Phase 4 of the ongoing BELA project which offers small grants of up to £500 maximum to micro businesses based within the Breckland District; which the applicant is required to match 50%. The project enables the Council to assist a minimum of 30 businesses through a total project cost of £37,500.

BELA has been extremely successful since its conception in April 2007. The initial BELA project was a one year initiative coordinated on behalf of the Economic Development Thematic Group by Breckland Council's Economic Development service. Due to the success it was rolled over into subsequent years and a brief breakdown of the grant scheme costs to date is shown below:

- Project Total Cost for 3 projects £205.390
- Spend from 3 projects to date: £203.557
- Private Match to date (higher than predicted and will be exceeded by the end of BELA 3): £120.322

Overall 111 businesses have been assisted since the conception of the project to the date of this report. This means that the total number of businesses will far exceed the original projection by the time we complete BELA 3 which currently has £5,937 remaining.

- Breckland Match Funding Reserve £15,000
- Private Additional Income (50% match) £15,000
- Breckland Resource In Kind funding £ 7,500
- Total Project Cost: £37,500

Breckland Council's Economic Development Team is requesting **£15,000** (40%) from Breckland Council towards this project.

Breckland Support Programme in Norfolk

(Note: Further information contained within appendix 2)

Norfolk County Council's Cabinet has recognised the need for County-wide Enterprise Support by providing a budget of £200,000 per year for 2 years initially – with the option to extend the project, based on a review of the outcomes achieved.

Norfolk County Council has encouraged Breckland Council to support this grant with a proportion of match funding to provide an enhanced provision of business support to beneficiaries of the business start up support offered as a result of the grant.

Delegated Decisions:

Thetford Dolphins:

Thetford Dolphins Swimming Club submitted a grant application to purchase a new electronic scoreboard to be used during training and swimming galas. The scoreboard currently used is old and frequently does not record accurately and therefore has an impact on the training and competition involved within the sport. There are currently 156 individuals and other visiting clubs during competitions. Without an electronic scoreboard the club and centre cannot host County Gala's. The staging of County Gala's raises the profile of Swimming in the areas where they are held and thus encourages participation and increases facility and club revenue. The sport of swimming will benefit district wide.

The grant panel agreed to fund the project **up to £2,000** subject to other funding being in place. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Norfolk Dance:

Norfolk Dance wish to follow on from the success of the dance development programme last year, Norfolk Dance plan to strengthen this provision in and around Litcham with over 200 beneficiaries anticipated. There will be provision for adult contemporary classes, as well as further development for the provision of children and young people.

The adult contemporary classes will be a regular weekly class held at Litcham dance studio. The provision for children and young people will be developed, with the intention for growth, through a series of taster sessions in primary and junior schools, to recruit for after school groups. The after school groups will be regularly weekly classes, as well as summer holiday provision to further recruit more children and young people.

Over 100 classes/workshop sessions will be delivered through this programme; in addition Norfolk Dance will provide professional development opportunities for Breckland practitioners.

The dance development programme will see 40 days of delivery in Litcham and the surrounding area during 2012/13.

The grant panel agreed to fund the project **up to £3,000** subject to a holiday programme being delivered. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Foxley Village Hall:

Foxley Village Hall are requesting funding for their roof development in order to allow the removal of asbestos sheeting from the village hall roof and replace with insulated sheets to lower heating costs and be environmentally safer for the building. Refurbishing the roof for the community of Foxley is the final piece of work required to the hall to ensure it can remain a focal point for the community and the next generation.

Foxley Village Hall is a very active venue hosting events, short mat bowls, keep fit, bridge, table tennis, coffee mornings, bingo and annual events such as Harvest supper and the village summer lunch. It is also available for the residents to hire and has received a large amount of support from user groups and individuals through the consultation period of this application. There is anticipated to be 300+ individuals and 12 organisations benefitting from this project.

Total project costs up to £23,750 including VAT based on the highest quote provided.

The recommendation from the grants panel was to fund the project **up to £4,800** subject to other funding being in place. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Swaffham Community Transport Project:

The Swaffham Community Transport project has been providing urban and rural demand responsive services for 13 years. The project is operated by West Norfolk Community Transport based in Kings Lynn. The pilot was launched in 1998 and has grown steadily and now provides three mini-buses for people with mobility problems around the area. The long history of financial support from Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council has enabled the project to expand further and help more people to access transport, reducing rural isolation and increasing levels of social inclusion in and around the Swaffham area.

The project has around 400 members and provides around 10,000 passenger journeys per year; with a total cost of £173,489

The recommendation from the grants panel was to fund the project **up to £4,925** (3%) subject to other funding being in place. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Brecks Food & Drinks Festival:

This is the second year that Swaffham will participate in the popular month long EDP Norfolk Food Festival, a celebration of all local food in the wider Brecks area. It remains an outstanding opportunity for all local food and food related businesses to build on the EDP's extensive food festival marketing activities, to promote their produce locally and to continue to build on all the past promotional activities about both the Brecks and specifically Swaffham itself, while engaging both the local community and businesses.

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September will include: a wide range of events including food stalls, local food themed exhibitions with a wartime kitchen, indoor orchard, tastings and apple-related activities for children, beer tasting, music, chicken racing, jam making with the WI, flower arranging from food sources, an art exhibition featuring works on a food theme, fancy dress, EcoTech organic garden display, sporting challenge - chefs versus producers - a best dressed shop window display competition, activities at the Museum including a demonstration of Anglo Saxon cooking, children's activities and auction of displays in the Assembly Rooms, book signings, chef demos at the Cookery Theatre, the Poultec mobile hospitality vehicle, demonstrations of ethnic food from the local migrant community, a pop-up restaurant meal for 100 guests in the Assembly Rooms and a repeat of the popular meal for up to 10 people in the observation platform at EcoTech's wind turbine.

The grant panel were satisfied with the re-submitted application and the evidence requested regarding its sustainability the total revised project costs were reduced to £7,460.

The recommendation from the grants panel was to fund the project **£1,000** (13.5%) subject to other funding being in place. This decision has been made by a delegated decision.

Gifted and Talented

Josie Wright

Josie is aged 10 and attends the Lakenheath Kuk Sool Won School and is currently the highest ranking person in Britain in her age range, and the only First Degree Black Belt. She is the current European Brown Belt Champion at under 10 level, and has won over 20 tournaments across Europe in the past 2 years. Her next natural step is to compete in the World Championships held annually in Texas.

Josie has submitted impressive references from very high ranked ambassadors of the Martial Arts Discipline of Kuk Sool Wan. The travel and accommodation costs incurred by pursuing her ambition to become World Champion are extensive. Kuk Sool Wan has recently been recognised as an Olympic Sport.

The funding is required to assist with travel and accommodation costs for training and tournament participation across the world. Total costs incurred £7,250 - Match Funding Request: £500

It was agreed to back Josie with the full funding amount of **£500** as it seems she has a fantastic chance of representing the UK in future games.

Karlynn Edgellar

Karlynn is aged 16 and plays for Ipswich Basketball Club in the National League, as well as England Basketball. She has just been selected to attend a training camp in Nottingham over the Christmas period in preparation for next years European Championships. Since her last application Karlynn has now become a regular and pivotal member of the England U/17 squad. Attending training is essential for her to continue to be considered for the National squad, and at 16 years of age, should Karlynn continue to represent her country in the forthcoming European Championships in Poland and beyond, she will have a real chance of representing her country in the Olympics 2016.

Financial assistance towards weekly travel and training costs to Ipswich and Nottingham respectively, and assistance towards attending training camps in the later this year in preparation for competing in the European Championships in Sept 2012, set to be held in Poland.

Total costs incurred: £3,865. It was agreed to fund **£500**, based on her continued development and progression since her last funding.

2. OPTIONS

2.1 Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account

- To approve the match funding for Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4) to the value of £15,000.
- To approve a lesser amount of match funding towards Breckland Enterprise & Learning account (BELA 4).
- To decline the match funding application.

2.2 Enterprise Support Programme in Norfolk

- To accept the £80k NCC grant and to authorise the release of £40k over a 2 year period to enable a high level of enhanced support for business start ups.

- To accept the £80k NCC grant and to authorise the release of a lesser amount of additional funding which will enable a lower level of enhanced support for business start ups.
- To accept the £80k NCC grant and to not authorise any additional funding and offer no additional support for business start ups after the initial training.
- Not to accept the £80k NCC grant.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4)

Grant panel has recommended approval for Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4) based on the following reasons:

- Additional funding for this initiative will help maximise the opportunity for start up and micro businesses to obtain skills development, business support, essential items of equipment, training, advice and guidance at a time when they are most vulnerable and need to grow.
- Raising aspirations and creating ambition, opportunities and drive thus contributing to a prosperous and vibrant community in which to live and work.
- An additional 30 (minimum) start up and micro businesses across the Breckland District to directly benefit from the funding available thereby ensuring their needs are met especially during these challenging times, and progress towards meeting our own strategic aims are achieved.

3.2 Enterprise Support Programme in Norfolk

Additional funding for this initiative will enable the service to provide a level of support to help nurture new business start ups and increase the chance of them maintaining a successful business in its early and most vulnerable stage.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

An opportunity to enhance the local offer to businesses and their respective employees, with a dedicated fund which is tailored to their business needs.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal

With reference to the Thetford Dolphins project, please note that the responsibility for the scoring board and maintenance of the equipment will be held with Parkwood leisure and therefore no future costs or responsibility will return to Breckland Council.

5.2 Risks: Risk Matrix available on request.

5.3 Financial: See Proforma B's in relation to the above match funding applications requiring approval.

5.4 Timescales:

The projects requiring approval will be completed within this financial year (2012/13) subject to external funding being approved and on schedule. See appendices 3 & 4 for the specific timescale of this project.

5.5 Equality and Diversity: N/A

5.6 Stakeholders / Consultation

The residents of Foxley and users of the facilities have had an opportunity to comment on the project through a consultation conducted by the applicants directly.

5.7 **Contracts:** Further appendices available on request.

5.8 **Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998:** N/A

6. **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

All Breckland Wards – BELA (4) Grants

Background papers: Available upon request.

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Key Decision – No

Appendices attached to this report:

1. Report - Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4)
2. Proforma B - Breckland Enterprise & Learning Account (BELA 4)
3. Report – Enterprise Support Programme in Norfolk
4. Proforma B - Enterprise Support Programme in Norfolk
5. Proforma Bs – Thetford Dolphins, Norfolk Dance, Foxley Village Hall, Swaffham Community Transport Project, Brecks Food & Drink Festival