

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Report reference: C/127/2006-07.**  
**Date of meeting: 12 March 2007.**



**Portfolio: Community Wellbeing**

**Subject: Grant Aid 2006/07 - Waltham Abbey Youth 2000**

**Officer Contact for Further Information: Chris Overend (01992 - 564247).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 - 564470).**

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### **Recommendation:**

- (1) That funding from the Grant Aid Scheme for 2006/07 totalling £4,000 be awarded to Waltham Abbey Youth 2000, subject to the:**
  - (a) clarification of the Youth Centre's opening hours; and**
  - (b) provision of assurances regarding the long-term funding of the Youth Worker;**
- (2) That further approval be given to a three-year funding agreement between Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 and the District Council, commencing on 1 April 2007 and subject to the agreement of the level of service expected from Waltham Abbey Youth 2000; and**
- (3) That negotiations be continued with Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 in order to finalise the three-year funding agreement as soon as possible.**

### **Background:**

1. Applications for grant aid funding are normally considered and determined by the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing but in this instance the Portfolio Holder, being a Waltham Abbey Town Councillor, currently Mayor and, in addition, an acquaintance of some of the officers working for the applicant group, has referred the application on to Cabinet, for determination.
2. The group provides a range of youth services from its premises at Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey, including a 'drop in' youth centre and confidential counselling services. Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 applied for 3 year, long term funding. However, given that the existing other long term agreements are to be reviewed towards the end of the 2006/07 financial year, the application was considered in terms of its suitability for a one-off grant with a view to assessing the potential for a three year funding agreement as part of the overall review.
3. As part of the overall assessment and monitoring procedures in respect of three year funding agreements, the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing undertakes visits to the headquarters of the various groups to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the work they carry out. In this instance, because of the current Portfolio Holder's involvement with Waltham Abbey Youth 2000, Councillor Chris Whitbread, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Young People, carried out the visit. The visit took place on 23 November 2006 and, in addition to Councillor Whitbread, involved Elaine Fletcher and Tricia Gurnett from Waltham Abbey Youth 2000, together with Christine Burr from EFDC Community Leisure and Chris Overend, Policy and Research Officer.

### **Statement in Support of Recommended Action:**

4. The application from Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 for funding, as set out in Appendix 1, was deemed worthy under the terms of the Grant Aid Scheme in the amount stated in Column 3 for the

reasons set out in Column 4 and subject to the conditions set out in Paragraph (6).

5. Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 provides a much needed youth centre where young people have somewhere to go in the evenings to meet friends in a safe and secure environment. The centre is staffed by qualified youth workers who ensure there are specific projects e.g. fashion design, DJ workshops, beauty courses, photography and activities are developed in addition to the leisure facilities available which include a computer suite with monitored internet access, a TV room, pool tables, table football, pinball and various music facilities. In addition, the group operates a professional, and confidential counselling service at King Harold School. This facility enables young people to discuss any problem troubling them whether it is homework, bullying, abuse or issues outside school. The group, which currently opens three nights a week, aim to extend their hours and range of services and have a longer term aim to appoint a Centre Manager.

6. One of the issues further information was sought on related to the counselling service offered by Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 and the distinction between that and the counselling service provided by WAYPIC. That distinction was made clear in that the counselling service provided by Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 is more specific and relates to the matters outlined in paragraph (5) above. Approval of the grant in 2006/07 would be conditional upon the group clarifying the situation regarding the centre opening hours and assurances regarding the other elements of the long term funding of the youth worker. Conditions would also be included in any longer term funding agreement to ensure that the service expected of Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 was clearly defined.

#### **Other Options for Action:**

7. Options considered in terms of the grant aid application were for the approval (if so the amount concerned), deferral or refusal of the application. There were no other options for consideration within the Community Wellbeing Portfolio as the only transfer of funds, which is possible, is from the various Voluntary Sector Assistance Budgets.

#### **Consultation Undertaken:**

8. Discussions with applicant group and with Officers.

#### **Resource Implications:**

**Budget Provision:** £92,310 set aside for long term, village hall and major grants in 2006/07. Consideration to be given to transfers between different elements at a later stage if necessary.

**Personnel:** From existing resources.

**Land:** Nil.

**Community Plan/BVPP Ref:** reference to Sections within the 'Community Wellbeing and Leisure' themes and reference to further development of Social Inclusion initiatives in the 2006/07 Best Value Plan.

**Relevant Statutory Powers:** Local Government Act 1972 Section 137; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision Act) 1976 Section 19.

**Background Papers:** Application for grants together with supporting information from group concerned.

**Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act:** Nil, although an application which is of benefit 'environmentally' and otherwise meets the grant aid criteria may receive favourable consideration.

**Key Decision Reference (if required):** N/A.

**APPENDIX 1****GRANT AID APPROVALS - 2006/07**

<b>Column 1 Group</b>	<b>Column 2 Nature of Application</b>	<b>Column 3 Amount Approved £</b>	<b>Column 4 Comments</b>
Waltham Abbey Youth 2000	Youth Counselling	4,000	Assists BV Plan in terms of social inclusion; needs of younger people in the locality of Waltham Abbey. Group also assists BV Plan in terms of providing community/leisure provision. Well-established club providing much needed service in the locality.

**APPENDIX 2****GRANT AID SCHEME 2006/07****STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS as at 28 February 2007**

	<b>£</b>
<b>Free Fall Home Safety Check Scheme</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Loughton Brook Project</b>	<b>3,800</b>
<b>Loughton Operatic Society</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Music @ LMC</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Roding Players Orchestra</b>	<b>280</b>

<b>Total Expenditure as at 31. 01. 07</b>		<b>61,195</b>
<b>Amount Remaining at Present</b>		<b>18,535</b>
<b>Amount Remaining if Application Approved as per Appendix 1</b>		<b>14,535</b>