

CABINET
22nd November 2011

ITEM NO.

**THIRD SECTOR STRATEGIC GRANTS 2012-15
APPLICATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Andrew Scott

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To present proposals for a criteria-based framework linked to strategic outcomes and service priorities for the future allocation of Strategic Grants to Third Sector organisations.

Summary

2. The Council provides support to Third Sector organisations through the allocation of Strategic Grants. In the current year (2011-12) 11 organisations listed in **Appendix 1** are in receipt of grants with a total value of £217,814. Grants are tied to the delivery of agreed outcomes and outputs.
3. Strategic Grants are important in enabling Third Sector organisations to deliver services and contribute to strategic outcomes, and this report sets out proposals for strengthening that contribution. However, whilst it would be desirable to maintain the grants programme at previous levels, this is not possible in the face of current financial challenges.
4. Accordingly the budget for the current year reflects a 10% reduction on the previous year, with a further 15% saving to be applied in 2012-13. This phased savings strategy was approved within the 2011-15 MTFP. Cabinet minute C142(2)/Feb/11 refers, with savings proposals for Third Sector support set out in Appendix 8/19 to the MTFP report (<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/PublicMinutes/Cabinet/February%2022%202011/Item%204b%20-%20Appendix%208.pdf>)
5. 2011-12 is a transitional year in reviewing the Strategic Grant programme. All of the 11 organisations receiving grant were previous recipients, and the 10% reduction was simply applied pro-rata. However, it is essential that available resources are directed towards the delivery of Darlington's strategic outcomes and service priorities, especially in the climate of diminishing resources. A criteria-based application process is therefore proposed, with applications scored and assessed against the criteria set out in **Appendix 2**.

6. The Strategic Grants budget would be utilised to provide two funding streams. The Strategic Grant component would provide funding for a contracted three year period with a break clause after two years subject to review of strategic priorities and delivery performance (two plus one). Grants would be targeted on enabling organisations to operate in a strategic commissioning environment, on 'invest to save' innovation and on ensuring delivery of non-commissioned services that align with strategic outcomes. The Tactical Fund component would respond to one-off needs and issues arising in-year in order to maintain progress towards a thriving sector.
7. The Tactical Fund would be created by ring-fencing an amount, recommended initially at £7,000, from the Strategic Grant budget. This would leave £176,500 next year for allocation as Strategic Grant, after the 15% approved savings reduction.
8. Within the overall framework set out in this report, Strategic Grant funding for eVOLution will be ring-fenced and safeguarded from further reduction, tied to its responsibility to support other organisations in their bids and to a commitment not to bid for further Strategic Grant itself.
9. A Joint Advisory Panel established under Minute C10/Jun/10 currently determines Discretionary Rate Relief applications. The panel would be expanded to include the expertise needed to enable it to assess and advise Officers on Strategic Grant applications. Cabinet would continue to determine applications within the MTFP process.
10. The Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships chairs the Joint Panel and has delegated powers to determine Discretionary Rate Relief applications, with appropriate call-in challenge arrangements. It is recommended that the delegated power should be extended to include approval of Tactical Fund applications, again with call-in provision to enable Council Members to challenge decisions on applications.
11. It is likely that some of the currently funded organisations might not retain grant under this revised application process. The Tactical Fund could provide short-term support for existing commitments and Council staff would work with organisations in this position and with County Durham Community Foundation to assist them in moving towards sustainable funding arrangements for the future.
12. Continuing pressure on Council budgets could lead to further reductions in the Strategic Grants budget as part of the 2012-16 MTFP process. However, whilst this is a possibility, it is necessary to bring this report to Cabinet in advance of MTFP proposals to enable the new approach (if approved) to be implemented and enable Third Sector organisations to know what their funding will be for next year in a timely fashion.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) The criteria set out in **Appendix 2** be approved as the basis for assessing Strategic Grant applications.
 - (b) The proposals set out in paragraphs 6, 7 and 24-29 of the report for the Strategic Grant programme and the Tactical Fund be approved.

- (c) The delegated powers of the Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships be extended as described in paragraphs 10 and 35 to include approval of applications for grant from the Tactical Fund subject to call-in provision to allow Council Members to challenge decisions.
- (d) Cabinet receives and considers the recommendations of the Joint Funding Advisory Panel on the first round of applications for Strategic Grant on 10th January 2012.

Reasons

14. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) To enable the Third Sector to participate fully in the delivery of strategic outcomes
- (b) To make the most effective use of the Council's resources for Third Sector support

Murray Rose, Director of Services for People

Background Papers

Council Support to the Third Sector, Report to Cabinet, 15th June 2010

MTFP Report to Cabinet, 22nd February 2011

Peter Roberts : Extension 2713

H:\Voluntary and community sector\Review of Funding\Strategic Grant\Strategic Grant 2012-14

S17 Crime and Disorder	The changes proposed in this report will contribute to increased strategic focus of grants to improve delivery against priorities.
Health and Well Being	The changes proposed in this report will contribute to increased strategic focus of grants to improve delivery against priorities.
Carbon Impact	This report will have neither a positive or negative impact on carbon impact.
Diversity	This report will have neither a positive or negative impact on diversity.
Wards Affected	There is no specific focus on particular wards in this report, but the increased strategic focus of grants on strategic outcomes and service priorities is likely to have a positive impact most particularly on the more deprived wards.
Groups Affected	There is no specific focus on particular groups in this report, but the increased strategic focus of grants on strategic outcomes and service priorities is likely to have a positive impact most particularly on more vulnerable groups. There is potential negative impact on groups involved in or supported by organisations that are unable to retain grant under the criteria-based approach set out in this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	The report sets out proposals for the utilising and allocating the Strategic Grants budget, but within existing budget, savings and policy frameworks.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is an urgent decision in seeking approval of the proposals for a criteria-based application process for Strategic Grant in time to enable the proposals to be applied in the next grant cycle.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The changes proposed in this report will increase the focus of Strategic Grants on the delivery of One Darlington : Perfectly Placed strategic outcomes.
Efficiency	The changes proposed in this report will enable the Council to maximise the use of resources in supporting the development of a thriving Third Sector and in delivering agreed strategic priorities.

MAIN REPORT

Context – Strategic Support to the Third Sector

15. This report sets out proposals for inviting, receiving and assessing applications from Third Sector organisations for Strategic Grant for the three year period April 2012 to March 2015.
16. The award of Strategic Grants is an important component in the Council's approach to supporting the Third Sector. A thriving sector, whilst important for its own sake, is also a positive dimension of the Council's Business Model and of One Darlington : Perfectly Placed, and is critical to the future progress of Darlington Together.
17. The sector provides valuable services to the public. Strategic Grants can influence and improve the way services are provided, and build the capacity of the sector to tender for and deliver commissioned services in future. The criteria-based approach proposed in this report will sharpen the focus on strategic outcomes and delivery of priority services in the allocation of grant. Proposed criteria for the scoring of Strategic Grant applications are set out in **Appendix 1**.
18. Cabinet approved proposals in June 2010 to reinforce the Council's strategic support to the sector in the current era of diminishing resources (min. C10/Jun/10 refers). The approved proposals are as follows.
 - (a) Introduce an organisational health check covering governance and finance for each organisation receiving funding from the Council.
 - (b) Set up a Joint Funding panel with County Durham Community Foundation to strengthen the strategic approach to funding across funding sources.
 - (c) Transfer responsibility for financial as well as other support to the sector to the Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships.
 - (d) Develop a programme with the Third Sector to improve capacity to tender for services.

These measures have been or are being implemented, and provide the context for the Strategic Grant proposals set out in this report.

Strategic Grants in Current Year

19. Strategic Grants for the current year (2011-12) were approved within the MTFP in March 2011. The total value of approved grants is £217,814, with 11 organisations receiving grants ranging from £82,739 to £4,275. All of the organisations had received grant in the previous year (2010-11). Grant is linked to the delivery of outcomes and outputs agreed with each of the 11 organisations and set out in an 'offer letter'. A schedule of the current grants is attached as **Appendix 2**.
20. Appendix 8/19 to the MTFP report to Council (minute C142(2)/Feb/11) set out budget savings proposals for strategic funding of the Third Sector. These included a 10% reduction in the Strategic Grants budget for the current year. The total of £217,814 is actually a 10.9% reduction on the total for 2010-11, due to termination of funding to Branksome Community

Centre. However, a 10% reduction was applied pro-rata to the individual grants to the 11 organisations compared to the grants made in 2010-11.

21. The previously approved savings strategy (Minute C142(2)/Feb/11 – see Appendix 8/19 of the 2011/12 MTFP report) is to apply a further 15% reduction to the grants budget for 2012-13, producing a total budget of £183,500. The approach set out in this report aims to ensure that this reduced budget is utilised to contribute effectively to strategic priorities.
22. A grant of £45,989 to eVOLution was approved for 2011-12, and this reflected the 10% reduction on the grant made in the previous year. It is intended that funding for eVOLution be ring-fenced within the application process and that it be safeguarded from a further reduction in funding.
23. This reflects the vital and unique role that eVOLution plays as the Third Sector infrastructure organisation in Darlington in building the capacity of the sector to contribute to strategic outcomes and service priorities. In particular, its contribution will be critical in developing the Darlington Together approach to unlocking the potential of social capital to deliver services and solutions to local needs. The safeguarding of funding is conditional on eVOLution supporting other organisations in the sector with their development, capacity building and grant applications, and on not bidding itself for further Strategic Grant.

Proposals for Strategic Grant Programme

24. It is proposed to refocus Strategic Grant funding around two components.
 - (a) The Strategic Grant programme will provide funding in accordance with the criteria set out in **Appendix 2**.
 - (i) Whilst a range of criteria are included in the set, it is recommended that applications must demonstrate a contribution to one or more of the seven outcomes for people and place linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington : Perfectly Placed before the other criteria come into consideration.
 - (ii) Strategic Grants will be contracted for three years with a break clause after two years (two plus one) subject to monitoring of delivery performance and review of priorities. Grants will support the core funding of organisations that contribute to strategic priorities, as reflected in the criteria set out in **Appendix 2**. Grants will assist organisations to build their capacity to operate in a strategic commissioning environment, support ‘invest to save’ innovation in services and solutions to local needs, and enable organisations to deliver non-commissioned local services. This resource is not intended to fund specific projects, but to provide core stability to organisations supporting of the strategic priorities of the Council and the Sustainable Community Strategy.,
 - (b) A Tactical Fund will be created by ring-fencing funds from the main budget, recommended initially at £7,000, leaving a Strategic Grant programme of £176,500 (at the level of funding approved in the 2011-15 MTFP). The Tactical Fund will be introduced in 2012-13 to fund responses to one-off needs that may arise in-year in the sector. These may include small-scale emergencies and emerging pressures that require

small injections of funding in order to maintain the development and sustainability of organisations.

25. The Strategic Grant programme would be aimed at:-

- (a) Consortium working with partners from the public, private and Third Sector;
- (b) Strategically important services defined within the MTFP and One Darlington: Perfectly Placed.
- (c) Delivering pilot or developmental work to meet gaps in the provider market for the above services.

Grant would contribute to the core funding of organisations to reinforce their capacity to work in these ways, rather than funding one-off projects. A proposed set of criteria for scoring grant applications based on the above overall aims is attached as **Appendix 1**.

26. Tactical Fund grants would be one-off payments to tackle urgent in-year needs of the following types..

- (a) Improving sustainability of an organisation, for example by contributing to reducing costs or increasing income.
- (b) Supporting the process for undertaking option appraisals in relation to premises.
- (c) Embedding full-cost recovery and contingency planning in business planning and tendering for services.
- (d) Responding to short-term emergencies, for example related to funding gaps or to premises crises such as boiler breakdown or burst pipes.

27. Applications for Tactical Grant will need to provide a clear business plan with agreed mechanisms for picking up any revenue implications of these one-off proposals so that, for example, ongoing maintenance costs are built into to future budgets.

28. The proposals are designed to ensure that Council funding is used in a strategically focused and accountable way, enabling the sector to contribute to strategic outcomes and service priorities to its full capacity.

29. There will be challenges for some organisations that currently receive strategic grant but are unlikely to satisfy the criteria for continuing funding. The existing commitment to the Community Carnival is a particular concern, and for next year the Tactical Fund could be used to safeguard continuity and existing commitments for 2012-13. It will be important for the Council to offer any support it can to assist the Carnival and any other organisations to pursue sustainable funding and operational arrangements in the longer term. This might include working with County Durham Community Foundation to identify transitional funding sources.

Wider Council Support to Third Sector and Savings Proposals

30. Whilst this report is concerned with Strategic Grant it will be helpful to outline the other ways in which the Council has provided financial support to the Third Sector, and of how these other forms of support are affected by the approved savings proposals:-
- (a) Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) is available to qualifying charitable and not-for-profit organisations. A budget of £34,000 has been allocated in the current year to fund DRR and this is now almost fully allocated in the applications that have been approved or received and awaiting approval. A budget reduction of £9,117 has been made in the current year by introducing a limit of £2,000 relief per organisation.
 - (b) Rent subsidy is provided to a number of Third Sector organisations based in Council properties. The pattern of rents paid and subsidy provided is historic and inconsistent, and there are no criteria in place. The benefits are not shared by Third Sector bodies in non-Council properties. A phased reduction in rent subsidy is being implemented over the next four years, to move towards a commercial rent level that is fair for all organisations. This will be challenging for some organisations but should be balanced by the move towards the full cost recovery approach set out in the Darlington Compact.
 - (c) Community grant provided small one-off grants to support community projects and events. This funding source has been withdrawn, generating a saving of £15,000, from April 2011. Instead, Council staff work closely with County Durham Community Foundation to identify alternative sources of funding through the foundation and in existing underused funds. This is being done both in response to one-off approaches from individuals and groups and strategically to explore potential new future funding streams for Darlington.
31. The previously approved savings to be achieved from reviewing support to the Third Sector (Min C142(2)/Feb/11 – Appendix 8/19), and the timescales for achieving savings, are summarised in the table overleaf.

32. Summary of savings from Third Sector funding review:

Year 1 (2011-12)	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Community grant ceases saving £15,000p.a	No community grant fund	No community grant fund	No community grant fund
Discretionary Rate Relief cap is introduced at £2000 maximum per organisation saving £9117	Discretionary Rate Relief is operated with a £2000 cap per organisation saving £9117	Discretionary Rate Relief is operated with a £2000 cap per organisation saving £9117	Discretionary Rate Relief is operated with a £2000 cap per organisation saving £9117
Rent Subsidy is cut by 10% saving £2567 plus identified saving of £40,000 because of re-let at commercial rate.	Rent subsidy is cut by a further 15% saving £45,682 cumulative	Rent subsidy cut by a further 25% giving cumulative saving of £50,597	Total removal of rent subsidy
Strategic Grant is cut by 10% saving £28,744	Strategic Grant is cut by 15% excluding eVOLution saving an additional £33,867 (cumulative £62 611)	Strategic Grant and invest to save operated as agreed in year 2	Strategic Grant and invest to save operated as agreed in year 2

	Invest to Save Programme is set up with an annual Tactical Fund for one-off funding as part of Strategic Grant programme.		
Total saving in year 1 is £95,428	Total saving in year 2 £132,410	Total saving in year £137,325	Total saving in year 4 dependant upon removal of rent subsidy will be in excess of £147,000

The Application Process

33. The Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships has delegated powers to determine Discretionary Rate Relief applications subject to call-in provision that enables Council Members to challenge decisions. The power also covers Community Grants, but there is currently no budget provision for these grants. Applications are considered by the Joint Funding Advisory Panel established under Minute C10/Jun/10. The panel is chaired by the Cabinet Member and currently includes a representative of the County Durham Community Foundation and the Social Enterprise Development Manager.
34. Under these proposals the panel would be expanded to provide the mechanism for assessing and advising officers on Strategic Grants. It would include a commissioning manager, a procurement/contracts officer, and representatives from the External Funding Team and from eVOLution. It is understood that the Community Foundation might apply for strategic grant; if so its role on the panel would have to be reconsidered.
35. As well as advising on Strategic Grant applications the Joint Funding Advisory Panel would determine applications to the Tactical Fund, to allow a rapid response to urgent needs. It is recommended that the delegated powers of the Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships be expanded to include determination of Tactical Fund applications subject to call-in provision that will enable Council Members to challenge funding decisions.
36. This report seeks approval of the criteria for scoring applications at the Cabinet meeting on 22nd November, with the intention of recommending applications for approval to the Cabinet meeting on 10th January 2012. This leaves an extremely tight timetable for inviting, receiving and assessing applications. Local organisations will be alerted in advance of the need to be prepared for submission of applications. The key dates will be:
- (a) 30th November to 8th December – applications submission period;
 - (b) 9th December to 15th December – officer analysis of applications;
 - (c) 16th December – Joint Funding Advisory Panel Meeting to consider applications;
 - (d) 19th December – report writing and submission.
37. Once the criteria for scoring applications (proposals in **Appendix 2**) have been approved by Cabinet, they will be circulated within the sector and Strategic Grant applications invited. A standard form of application will be drawn up.

38. The following process is then recommended. Applications for 2012-13 will be required by mid-November 2011. Applications will be scored against the approved criteria by officers to enable consideration by the Joint Panel by end November. The panel will make recommendations for consideration by Cabinet on 10th January 2012 for approval in advance of decisions on the MTFP.
39. The Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships has delegated power to approve applications for Discretionary Rate Relief with the support and input of the Joint Panel and subject to a call-in period before decisions are finalised. It is recommended that Tactical Grant applications are handled in this way, to ensure that they are dealt with promptly in response to what may be urgent need on the part of the applicant. This will require a change to the Cabinet Member's delegated power.
40. The offer of Strategic Grants will be tied to delivery of outputs and outcomes to be identified and agreed in the application process, and linked to the strategic criteria that the organisations are seeking to address in their applications. The outputs and outcomes will provide the basis for performance monitoring and release of grant. Grant will be paid on a quarterly basis subject to satisfactory performance data. It is suggested that monitoring be carried out and quarterly payments approved by the Joint Funding Advisory Panel.
41. As well as quarterly performance monitoring, the panel would receive an annual review of delivery and value for money achieved through the investment of grant. The review would provide the basis for an annual delivery report to Cabinet, and for the consideration of optional third year funding referenced in paragraph 24(a)(ii).

Outcome of Consultation

42. The proposals in this report have been discussed widely with Third Sector representatives, and particularly at the Third Sector Chairs and Chiefs meeting in autumn 2010. Representatives welcome the continuation of Strategic Grant funding having regard to the reductions in public sector funding. They support the proposal to move to a criteria-based application process. They recognise that this poses risks to some current recipients of Strategic Grant that might not score highly against strategic criteria, but the approach would have the virtues of being transparent, fair, flexible and responsive to local needs.
43. There has been no general public consultation on the proposals.

STRATEGIC GRANTS AWARDED IN 2011-12

Organisation	Activity/Purpose	Amount
Darlington Citizen's Advice Bureau	Contribution to ongoing costs of delivering advice on issues such as employment, debt and housing	£82,739
eVOLution	Provision of support services to the Third Sector including funding advice, operation of the Volunteer Centre, training and governance	£45,989
Darlington Media Group	Support open access media facility for four days per week, and developing capacity in the community relating to photographic and ICT facilities and individual/community skills	£15,202
Cruse Bereavement	Provision of counselling support to bereaved families	£6,780
Skerne Park Tool Library	Joint venture with three community associations to administer the tool library, including employing a worker	£13,962
Darlington Community Carnival	Provision of five weeks of street art workshops, including professional artists, to prepare for community carnival	£4,703
Darlington Association on Disability	Assist voluntary, statutory and independent organisations to ensure that equalities legislation is implemented	£14,751
First Stop Darlington	Provision of a drop-in service for homeless people to obtain information, advice and guidance, support and onward referral	£20,903
Branksome Community Centre	N/A – the Centre received grant in previous years but has ceased to operate	Nil
Skerne Park Community Centre	Running costs of centre for two nights per week when used for provision of council-run youth activities	£4,275
Red Hall Community Centre		£4,275
Firthmoor Community Centre		£4,275
Total		£217,814

APPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC GRANTS- GRANT CRITERIA

Criterion	
<p>Applications must demonstrate how grant would enable the applicant to contribute to one or more of the seven Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes listed below, before applications can be considered against the Transitions criteria. Applications will be assessed by a joint panel and will be scored up to a maximum of 25 points. It is not necessary to contribute to all or most of the One Darlington and Perfectly Placed outcomes to score highly in this section – an application demonstrating a very strong contribution to one outcome may score as well as one making less substantial contributions to a range of outcomes. This will be judged by the panel on the basis of the evidence available in the application.</p> <p>One Darlington Grant would fund provision that contributes to one or more of the following outcomes for people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in Darlington are healthy and supported • People in Darlington are educated and skilled • People in Darlington are financially secure • Individuals are not disadvantaged by their family circumstances at birth or where they reside; people live in cohesive and resilient communities <p>Perfectly Placed Grant would fund provision that contributes to one or more of the following outcomes for place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in Darlington live in sustainable neighbourhoods • Our communities are safe and free from crime • Darlington is an ambitious and entrepreneurial place in which businesses thrive and create wealth 	Up to 25
Transitions	Score
Developing services that will meet strategic objectives as set out in the key strategic plans of Darlington Borough Council including the Sustainable Community Strategy.	15
Developing work in partnership with other organisations to maximise efficient and effective high quality services.	15
Contributing to the development of Darlington Together – building social capital and resilient communities to generate community solutions to local needs.	15
Demonstrating a track record of local delivery contributing to the seven outcomes.	10
Building capacity of staff and trustees to meet the challenges of commissioning, procurement, tendering and full cost recovery to ensure local organisations have the skills necessary to become successful bidders and to develop as thriving organisations	10

APPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC GRANTS – GUIDANCE NOTES

1. The Council funding available for making strategic grants to the Third Sector is limited and must support a range of organisations and work to maximise delivery of strategic outcomes and service priorities. In 2011/12 eleven organisations are in receipt of strategic grants ranging from £82,700 to £4,200, with an average grant value of £19,800. Whilst organisations are invited to bid competitively for funding, the Council expects to continue to fund a number of organisations with grants of varying values to support a diverse pattern of provision within the sector.
2. Applications must be submitted in the standard form specified by Darlington Borough Council and providing all required information at first submission to enable the application to be assessed alongside other applications within the required timescale. Applications will be invited and application forms and timetable will be distributed through eVOLution.
3. If the submitted applications include supportable proposals that exceed significantly the funds available the Council will seek to negotiate with applicants to achieve the optimum distribution of grants to support strategic priorities and maintain the stability of as many organisations as resources allow.
4. Applications will be acknowledged within one week of receiving the application. Formal decisions on applications will be made as part of the Council's budget setting process, based on recommendations from the Strategic Grants Joint Panel. Applicants will be kept informed of progress and of any issues that need to be addressed during the application process.
5. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing with reasons for refusal and will be given contacts for support for future applications as appropriate.
6. Applicants must be voluntary and community sector organisations based within Darlington for group funding for organisations with more than £20,000 unrestricted funds per annum.
7. Applicants must provide copies of a constitution and annual accounts or budget reports for a period of at least three months if they are a new organisation. Support on these issues is available through eVOLution (formerly known as Darlington CVS) and their details are given at the end of these guidance notes.
8. Applications should show how the grant applied for would fit into the overall funding profile of the organisation, and explain why the required funding cannot be secured from other sources.
9. Applicants will provide evidence of spend and benefit, and performance reports detailing delivery against agreed outputs and outcomes.. Applicants will be required to provide copies of receipts for any specific expenditure undertaken with the grant. If possible it would be useful to provide copies of any literature/materials produced.
10. Any expenditure incurred prior to the project approval date will be ineligible.

Appendix 2

11. Grants will be made on a contracted basis, for the delivery of agreed outcomes and services, for a period of up to three years. Subject to the provision of satisfactory performance monitoring reports, as specified in the contract, no further application will be required during the contract period.
12. The grant must not be used for any work or expenditure other than that stated in the application without written agreement from Darlington Borough Council. If all or part of the grant is not used for the reason specified and/or by the date specified in the grant offer letter, any outstanding amounts, or if any element of the grant is misused the full amount of the grant awarded, must be paid back to Darlington Borough Council, unless agreed.
13. Any materials purchased with assistance for the grant are not to be sold or otherwise disposed of without the prior consent of Darlington Borough Council.
14. Organisations receiving Strategic Grant must acknowledge support from Darlington Borough Council in promotional materials, reports and other media products, and show evidence of this in performance monitoring reports to the Council.
15. Darlington Borough Council will, under no circumstances, be liable for damage, injury or loss of any kind whatsoever to any property or persons occurring as a result of activities undertaken with this award.
16. Projects may be subject to visits and applicants must be able to provide a statement of accounts for inspection if necessary.
17. Any overpayment of grant must be repaid to Darlington Borough Council on demand or upon the applicant becoming aware that the grant has been over-paid whichever occurs first.
18. Grant will be awarded on the basis of information supplied to Darlington Borough Council at the time of application. If any of this information is subsequently found to be misleading, inaccurate or false then the grant must be paid back to Darlington Borough Council in full.