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**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2004/05**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,  
Resource Management Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider eleven applications in respect of financial assistance received from nine charitable and non-profit making organisations and two individuals, details of which are contained in the report.

**Background**

2. The total committed in respect of applications made in the current year is £4,434. The Council has made provision within the 2004/2005 revenue budget of £15,000. This leaves a balance of £10,566, and is before consideration of the attached applications.
3. **Darlington Credit Unions**

(a) ***Introduction***

An application has been received from the one of the four Darlington Credit Unions for financial assistance of £300 towards their administration costs.

A Credit Union is a non profit making co-operative society offering its members loans out of a loans pool of savings built up by the members themselves. It is owned, operated and controlled by a group of people who have a common intent. A borrower's credit rating is not assessed on the basis of wealth and status, but on proven ability to save. By agreeing to save regularly, members build up a fund from which they can borrow at favourable interest rates. This interest should provide the union with revenue to cover administration expenses. Any surplus is returned to the members in the form of dividends on savings.

The Darlington Unions are part of the Darlington Credit Union Forum who meet every six weeks to discuss problems and ways of solving them. The Forum consists of the four Darlington Credit Unions and one each from Aycliffe, Colburn and Shildon.

Each union must be affiliated to one of the two National organisations :-

ABCUL - Association of British Credit Unions

NFCU - National Federation of Credit Unions

The memberships of all credit unions vary according to the size of the area to which credit unions serve.

(b) **Financial Information**

(i) **Firthmoor, Eastbourne and Lascelles**

Audited accounts for the two previous years ended 31st December, 2003 have been submitted and are analysed in the table below.

	Year Ended 31st December	
	2002	2003
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	74	400
Grants and Fund Raising	9,551	32,150
Donations	0	256
	9,625	32,806
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration	9,208	31,112
Dividends	417	1,694
	9,625	32,806
Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0
Cash at Bank on current & instant accounts	39,394	34,419

(c) **Previous Applications**

The Darlington Credit Unions have been successful on a number of occasions in applying for financial assistance towards the costs of administration. Further details of the more recent applications and relevant information are highlighted in the table below. Previous awards have been given on an individual basis.

Year	Reason for Application	Minute Ref.	Grant Requested £	Grant Awarded £
2001/02	To assist with cost of administration	C72/August/01	250 x 4	200 x 4
2002/03	To assist with cost of administration	C71/August/02	250 x 4	200 x 4
2003/04	To assist with cost of administration	C52/July/03 x 2 C92/Sept/03 C130/Nov/03	250 x 4	200 x 4

(d) **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether they wish to support these applications from

one of the four Darlington Credit Unions. It is worth noting that applications are anticipated from the remaining three Credit Unions namely the Cockerton, North and South Darlington Credit Unions, and these applications will be presented to Cabinet once they have been received.

#### 4. **Darlington and District Dyslexia Support Group**

##### (a) ***Introduction***

An application has been received from the Treasurer of the Darlington and District Dyslexia Support Group for financial assistance towards the work of the group and to include the continuation of a newly established touch type read and spell computer course based at Morton Park for its members. In addition, financial assistance is sought to assist with the cost of providing guest speakers to attend meetings.

Darlington and District Dyslexia Support Group is a registered charity, is affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association and is also funded entirely from charitable donations. Membership fees are £10 per person which comprises an annual fee to the British Dyslexia Association of £4.50, a BDA handbook £4.00, Postage and stationery £1.50. The Group does not operate for a profit. At the present time the current membership totals 35.

The Group holds informal monthly meetings in order to meet other dyslexics, to exchange ideas and experiences and primarily to raise the awareness of dyslexia in and around Darlington. Guest speakers are invited to attend these functions which enable members and carers to ask relevant questions on coping with Dyslexia.

##### (b) ***Financial Information***

Accounts for the two years ended 31st March, 2004 have been submitted and are analysed below :-

	Year Ended 31st March	
	2003	2004
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	4	0
Subscriptions	325	983
	329	983
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Stationery	99	0
Training	294	0
Registration Fee	153	265
Membership of the British Dyslexia Association	225	277
Setting up Touch Type Read & Spell Course	0	5,940
Other	0	648
	771	7,130
Surplus/(Deficit)	(442)	(6,147)
Balances from both current and reserve accounts	9,696	3,549

(c) *Previous Applications*

The Darlington and District Dyslexia Support Group has not previously applied for financial assistance. However the Darlington Coronary Support Group have successfully applied for financial assistance since 1992. Details of the more recent applications together with additional and relevant information are shown in the table below.

Year	Reason for Application	Minute Ref.	Grant Requested £	Grant Awarded £
1999/00	Assistance in the continued work of the group and also to assist with the cost of group meetings and functions.	K79 (Ka123) Feb 2000	250	250
2000/01	As Above	C256/Jan/2001	250	250
2001/02	As Above	C214/Jan/2002	250	250
2002/03	As Above	C229/Feb/2003	250	250
2003/04	As Above	C172/Jan/2004	250	250

(d) **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wishes to support this application in respect of the Darlington and District Dyslexia Support Group, and if so, to what extent.

5. **Darlington Charity Partnership – Payroll Giving Consortium, (Comprising Darlington Age Concern, Darlington MIND, Darlington Samaritans, Friends of Darlington Memorial Hospital and St. Teresa’s Hospice, Darlington)**

(a) **Introduction**

A letter of application has been received from the Corporate Fundraising Manager based at St. Teresa’s Hospice on behalf of the Darlington Charity Partnership for financial assistance of £2,563.10. This is specifically towards the setting up costs for a new initiative which hopes to generate income from payroll giving support from both local companies and their employees.

The Darlington Charity Partnership (DCP) is a consortium of five charities based in Darlington, mentioned above, and have submitted a proposal to raise on-going funds for their work in the Darlington Community. It is anticipated that once the project is up and running any future costs will be met from funds raised and it is their aim to raise at least £2,000 for each charity involved within a year of launching the scheme.

It is the Partnerships intention to generate at least £10,000 per annum within a year of the launch date, this can be achieved by generating an average of 200 donors giving £50 per annum, also via promotions to at least five companies with an average of 200 employees (looking to generate a 20% response) and by making approaches to 15-20 companies during the initial test period.

(b) **Financial Information**

All of the member charities have freely committed their time and there will be no salary costs for the initial project as volunteers from each organisation have shared the workload. The initial costs are concerned with the design and printing of the materials needed to run a successful campaign and are highlighted in the table below.

Item	Estimated Cost Excl VAT £
3000 Authorisation Coupons	167.70
3000 Information Leaflets	686.40
2000 Sheets of Letter Headed Paper	375.00
500 A4 Display Posters	230.00
2 Exhibition Pull-ups	604.00
Design Development and Reproduction	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2563.10</b>

(c) ***Previous Applications***

The Darlington Charity Partnership (DCP) has not previously applied for financial assistance.

(d) ***Conclusion***

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wishes to support this application in respect of the Darlington Charity Partnership, and if so, to what extent.

6. **Summer Playschemes**

(a) ***Introduction***

Applications have been received from various Youth and Community Associations, (see list below) for financial assistance towards the cost of proposed playschemes to be held during the summer holidays.

- (i) Darlington District Youth and Community Association - Mobile Contact Bus
- (ii) Eastbourne Youth Centre
- (iii) Firthmoor and District Community Association
- (iv) Haughton Youth Centre
- (v) Red Hall Partnership
- (vi) Skerne Park Youth and Community Centre

7. ***Council Policy***

- (a) A report was considered by Members in June 1992 in which the outcome of consultations with the organisers of playschemes was outlined. It was resolved that a system of index-linked grants be introduced from 1st April, 1992, with additional amounts for newly established playschemes in the first year and special needs playschemes each year.

If Members were to follow this guideline the grant would need to be increased from £770 to £785, an increase of 2%, this being the rate of inflation at January 2004 in respect of schemes (i) to (vi) above.

(b) ***Conclusion***

The Cabinet is asked to consider a grant of £785 towards the running of each of the six playschemes listed above, a total of £4,710.

8. **Eve Lucy Doherty – Raleigh International, Costa Rica and Nicaragua Expedition, January 2005**

(a) ***Introduction***

An application has been received from Eve Doherty who resides in Darlington. Eve is seeking financial assistance as a contribution towards expenses incurred whilst undertaking her expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua with Raleigh International,

scheduled to take place in January 2005.

The total cost of the trip is anticipated to be in the region of £3,500 in total and Eve has managed to raise part of her target through on-going fund raising activities. Raleigh International is a leading youth development charity that offers 17-25 year olds from all over the world the chance to visit one of five expedition countries to take part in environmental, community and adventure projects which encourages young people to learn new skills in leadership, communication, organisation and motivation.

(b) **Financial Information**

The total cost of the trip is anticipated to be in the region of £3,500 and Eve has managed to raise £740 through the following fundraising activities.

<b>Funds Raised</b>	<b>£</b>
Acoustic Night – Tap & Spile, Darlington 5/8/03	80
80's Disco – Aruba, Darlington 14/10/03	200
Band Night – Tap & Spile 6/11/03	60
Acoustic Night – Tap & Spile, Darlington 19/2/2004	100
70's Disco – Route 66 30/3/2004	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>

Based on the financial projections there is a shortfall of £2,760

(c) **Previous Applications**

Eve has not previously applied for financial assistance. However, listed below are the most recent applications from volunteers who have travelled overseas to assist developing countries.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Reason for Application</b>	<b>Minute Ref:</b>	<b>Grant Requested £</b>	<b>Grant Awarded £</b>
2002/03	Adele Pearson	Girl Guide Association Trip to Japan	C122/Oct/2002	300	100
2003/04	April Britton	Two week Trek along the Great Wall of China in aid of the National Deaf Children's Society	C289/April/2003	350	350

(d) **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wished to support this application in respect of Eve Lucy Doherty, and if so, to what extent.

9. **Paul Holloway – Attendance at Heidelberg University, Ohio, Professional Football Scholarship, Scheduled to take place in August 2004**

(a) ***Introduction***

An application has been received from Paul Holloway for financial assistance of between £1,500-£2,000 towards the costs of flights, tuition fees and accommodation from August 2004 to January 2005 in order that he can study in America.

Paul who is 19 years old and resides in Darlington has been offered a 4 year football scholarship at Heidelberg College, in Ohio where he hopes to obtain a degree in sports and business. Paul has played for Crook Town in the Northern League and attended Longfield School before studying for a Btec in sports performance and excellence at Darlington Football Academy.

(b) ***Financial Information***

The total cost Paul needs to raise in order to take up the chance of studying in America is anticipated to be in the region of £3,500. This amount takes into account flight costs, tuition and living expenses from August 2004 to January 2005 only, as the remaining funding has already been secured from an American Company .

He has been successful in obtaining funding from some local businesses which at the present time amounts to £1,400. Paul is currently working on a full time basis during the day and has also secured a second job to help meet these expenses.

<b>Funds Raised</b>	<b>£</b>
Lions Brewery, Hartlepool	500
GCS Johnson Haulage	)
Jalna Paint Sprayer	)
Halnaby Haulage	) 900
Addison Plant Hire	)
<b>Total</b>	1,400

Based on the financial projections there is a shortfall of £2,100.

The Director of Education advises that there is no provision for grant aid in this instance, as the applicant is due to attend a University outside the United Kingdom.

(c) ***Previous Applications***

Paul has not previously applied for financial assistance, however similar applicants, Denise Baker, Jo-Ann Short and Andrew Finn and Christopher Dove who have been successful in applying for financial assistance for costs incurred whilst participating in their chosen sport is highlighted in the table below together with additional and relevant information.



<b>Year</b>	<b>Reason for Application</b>	<b>Minute Ref.</b>	<b>Grant Requested £</b>	<b>Grant Awarded £</b>
2002/03	<b><u>Denise Baker - Swimmer</u></b> Costs incurred whilst competing in the British Transplant Games in June 2001 and the World Transplant Games in France – July 2003	C229/February/2003	300	300
2003/04	<b><u>Jo-Ann Short - Triathlon</u></b> Costs incurred whilst competing in the World Triathlon Championships in Madeira in 2004	C150/December/2003	300	300
2003/04	<b><u>Andrew Finn</u></b> Costs incurred whilst competing in the Ice Hockey Under 13's in Quebec, Canada	C172/January/2004	300	300
2004/05	<b><u>Christopher Dove</u></b> Costs incurred whilst competing in the National Age Group Swimming Championships in Stockport	C256/April/2004	300	300

(d) **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wishes to support this application in respect of Paul Holloway, and if so, to what extent.

**Outcome of Consultation**

10. No consultation is taken on these items as a decision is made by Members.

**Legal Implications**

11. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

**Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

12. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in

its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

13. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

### **Decision Deadline**

14. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that instructions of Members are requested on these applications.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

### **Background Papers**

(i)	Firthmoor, Eastbourne and Lascelles Credit Union	Application for Financial Assistance Audited accounts for the two years ended 31st March 2003
(ii)	Darlington & District Dyslexia Support Group	Application for Financial Assistance Audited accounts for the three years ended 31st March 2004  Literature on coping with Dyslexia
(iii)	Darlington Charity Partnership	Letter of Application Listing of anticipated costs for the project
(iv)	Darlington Summer Playschemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Darlington &amp; District Youth &amp; Community Association</li><li>• Eastbourne Youth Centre</li><li>• Firthmoor &amp; District Community Association</li><li>• Haughton Youth Centre</li><li>• Red Hall Partnership</li><li>• Skerne Park Youth &amp; Community Centre</li></ul>	Applications for Financial Assistance
(v)	Eve Lucy Doherty – Raleigh International, Costa Rica and	Application for Financial Assistance

	Nicaragua	Listing of additional funding obtained Raleigh International invitation
(vi)	Paul Holloway – Costs Associated with attendance at Heidelberg University, Ohio – August 2004 to January 2005	Application for Financial Assistance Press Cuttings Literature from Heidelberg University Letter of Recommendation Listing of additional funding obtained

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