
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2004/05

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

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

Purpose of Report

1. To consider two applications in respect of financial assistance received from a charitable and non profit making organisation and an individual, details of which are contained in the report.

Background

2. The total committed in respect of applications made in the current year is £16,557.10. The Council has made provision within the 2004/2005 revenue budget of £15,000. This leaves a overspend of £1557.10 and is before consideration of the attached applications.

3. **Community Lunch Initiative - Grange Road Baptist Church**

- (a) ***Introduction***

An application has been received from the Reverend Dr. John Elliston, Minister of Grange Road Baptist Church for financial assistance of £750 towards the cost of running a series of six lunches. These lunches have been organised to take place throughout the year for 20-30 representatives from the statutory and voluntary sector, for the purpose of networking and building relationships, to benefit the people of Darlington overall.

This initiative has proved successful during the previous year and it is hoped that the Community Lunches will become a regular feature of the Darlington Community as it makes a positive contribution to agencies both statutory and voluntary.

- (b) ***Financial Information***

The Community Lunch Initiative has no accounts and is dependent on external funding. The total cost of running six luncheons is estimated to be in the region of £750 and these costs are itemised in the table below.

Costs of the Initiative of Running Six Lunches	£
Catering Expenses £85 x 6	510
Postage and Invitations £20 x 6	120
Venue Costs £20 x 6	120
Total	750

(c) ***Previous Applications***

Grange Road Baptist Church has not previously applied for financial assistance, and no similar applications have been received for this purpose.

(d) ***Conclusion***

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wishes to support this application in respect of the Community Lunch held at Grange Road Baptist Church, and if so, to what extent.

4. **Joanne Davies – Raleigh International, Rainforest Conservation Area in Malaysia Scheduled to take place from July to September 2005**

(a) ***Introduction***

An application has been received from Joanne Davies who resides in Darlington and is a student at the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. Joanne is seeking financial assistance of £350 as a contribution towards expenses incurred whilst undertaking her expedition to Malaysia with Raleigh International, scheduled to take place in July 2005.

The total cost of the trip is anticipated to be in the region of £4,400 in total and Joanne has managed to raise part of her target through on-going fund raising activities, donations and weekend earned income. 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 £4,400 and these costs are detailed below:-

Costs of Project	£
Expedition Cost	2,995
Airfare to Kota Kinabalu	720
Expedition Equipment	350
Medical Innoculations	75
Travel Expenses	300
Total	4,440

(c) *Previous Applications*

Joanne 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.

Year	Organisation	Reason for Application	Minute Ref:	Grant Requested £	Grant Awarded £
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
2004/05	Eve Lucy Doherty	Raleigh International – Costa and Nicaragua	C40/July/2004	Unspecified	300
2004/05	Ellie Martin	Expedition to Tanzania	C115/October/2004	Unspecified	300

(d) *Conclusion*

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

Outcome of Consultation

5. No consultation is taken on this item as a decision is made by Members.

Legal Implications

6. 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

7. 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

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

Decision Deadline

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

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that instructions of Members are requested on this application.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

(i)	Community Lunch Initiative – held at Grange Road Baptist Church	Application for Financial Assistance Letter detailing costs of the Initiative
(ii)	Joanne Davies – Raleigh International, Malaysia	Application for Financial Assistance Letter detailing costs of the trip

Joan Curran : Extension 2323
PB