
**COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS – AGE CONCERN
DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF**

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor John Williams, Leader

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider two applications for Community Grant from Age Concern who, are unable to be considered under delegated powers.

Summary

2. An application has been received from Age Concern, Councillor Stephen Harker the Member holding the Resources Portfolio has a personal and prejudicial interest in this application and so a decision on this application should be made by Cabinet.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the instructions of Members are requested on these applications for Community Grant.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported to allow Cabinet to decide whether or not to support these applications for Community Grant.

**Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services**

Background Papers

Community Grant Application Forms

Elaine Hufford : Extension 2447

S17 Crime and Disorder	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.
Health and Well Being	This application for Discretionary Rate Relief will have a positive impact on the Councils Health and Well Being Agenda
Sustainability	This report has no impact on the Councils Sustainability agenda.
Diversity	This report has no implications for the Councils diversity agenda.
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	Age Concern affects older people living in Darlington
Budget and Policy Framework	Any sums granted will be contained within the Community Grants budget
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes positively to the Healthy Darlington theme.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

- From May 2005 all applications for Community Grants are able to be considered and granted under delegated powers by the Member responsible for the Resources portfolio, however where that member has an interest in the applicant those applications must be considered by Cabinet. An application has been received from Age Concern, Councillor Stephen Harker the Member holding the Resources Portfolio has a personal and prejudicial interest in this application and so a decision on this application should be made by Cabinet.

Age Concern

- An application has been received from Age Concern Darlington for 20% Discretionary Rate Relief for their premises at Bradbury House, Beaumont Street, Darlington and 9 Clarks Yard, Darlington. Mandatory relief of 80% has already been granted for these properties.
- Age Concern Darlington is a registered charity whose object is “to promote the relief of older people in any manner which is deemed to be charitable in and around the area of Darlington” this is achieved through a number of activities including the organisation of direct services to older people.
- The main criteria for applications for Community Grant are that the aims of the group should be linked to one or more of the Community Strategy themes. Age Concern links with the Healthy Darlington theme of the Community Strategy by maximising people’s ability to live independently throughout their lives and developing a plan for an ageing population.

Financial Information

- Audited Accounts for the past two years have been submitted and are analysed below:-

	Year ended 31 March	
	2007	2006
Income	£000's	£000's
Donations and Grants	14	28
Activities generating Funds	60	71
Investment income	4	5
Grants and Contracts	514	472
Catering and activities	42	22
	634	598
Expenditure		
Cost of Generating Funds	117	104
Charitable activities	504	474
	621	578
Surplus	13	20
Cash at Bank and in hand	117	95

Rate Liability

10. The rates due on the occupation of the properties for 2008/09 are as follows:-

Property	Rate liability 100%	Mandatory Rate Relief 80%	Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) 20%	Amount met by Central Government 25% of DRR	Amount met by DBC Community Fund 75% of DRR
	£	£	£	£	£
Bradbury House	9702.00	7761.60	1940.40	485.10	1454.90
Clarks Yard	2194.50	1755.60	438.90	109.73	329.17
Total					1784.07

Previous Applications

11. Age Concern have previously applied for and been granted 80% Mandatory Rate Relief and 20% Discretionary Rate Relief for both Bradbury House and Clarks Yard in previous years.
12. At present there is £8440.90 left in the Community Fund before consideration of this application.

Conclusion

13. Cabinet are asked to consider whether it wishes to support these applications for community grant and if so to what extent.

Outcome of Consultation

14. No consultation has taken place in this report.