

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Summary

This report covers some outstanding matters connected with the support of voluntary organisations

1 RELATE – SOUTH ESSEX

- 1.1 The grant application was considered at Corporate Resources Sub-Committee on the 6 February 2001.
- 1.2 The application for £1,000 in respect of 2001/02 was not approved. The grant request is for the counselling service delivered from the Civic Suite, Rayleigh, in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 1.3 The presentation to Members at Corporate Resources Sub-Committee showed this as a new application as grant was not awarded in 2000/01. The grant was in fact awarded in 1999/2000 but held over pending the setting up of a service at Rayleigh. At the time, Members were concerned there should be a local service actually available within Rochford and therefore the grant was held over until the service was actually set up.
- 1.4 In the light of this information, Members may wish to consider awarding a grant of £750, the same as that awarded in 1999/2000 but which was in fact applicable to 2000/01.

2 NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATE - DISCRETIONARY RELIEF – OLD PEOPLES CENTRES

- 2.1 The Council agreed to a flat rate of grant funding in respect of
 - Hockley and Hawkwell Old Peoples Welfare Committee
 - Hullbridge Senior Citizens Welfare Council
 - Rayleigh Age Concern
 - Rochford and District Old Peoples Welfare
- 2.2 Members will recall that Finance & General Purposes Committee on the 7 th December 2000 (minute 417/2000) deferred decision in

respect of NNDR discretionary rate relief on clubs until the grants issue was determined.

- 2.3 At the moment, all four organisations receive the 80% mandatory relief as registered charities, which is fully funded by the Government.
- 2.4 In addition, each receives the relief on the remaining 20% of which 75% of this cost has to be met by this Council.
- 2.5 In the financial year 2000/01 the amounts granted in respect of the 20% relief totalled £2,350 and the 75% cost to this Council is therefore £1,762.
- 2.6 Members will be aware that the continuation of the discretionary rate relief was called into question owing to the large balances held by two of the organisations.
- 2.7 It is now recommended that Discretionary Rate Relief continue to be granted to the four organisations for the following reasons:-
- It continues the package of uniform support to the four main organisations
 - Each is a registered charity with the obligation to use all the funds for charitable purposes
 - It gives continuity and certainty to the organisation
 - It reduces the administration of NNDR relief

3 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The Old Peoples Clubs have the ability to contribute towards the Council's objectives in that each is strategically placed within the District providing services to the elderly.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If approved, the 75% cost of the discretionary rate relief can be met from within core budgets.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

- (1) The grant support to Relate South Essex.

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- (2) NNDR discretionary rate relief for the four named Old Peoples clubs. (HFS)

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Background Papers:

None

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