



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for Funding - Common Purpose Belfast (Bursaries)
Date:	17 June 2011
Reporting Officer:	Julie Thompson, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Head of Finance and Performance

Relevant background information

The purpose of this report is to consider a request for £6,000 financial assistance from Common Purpose Belfast in connection with its 2011 “Navigator” emerging leaders programme.

Members should note that the council provided similar funding in 2010.

Common Purpose programmes are designed to draw together local leaders, emerging leaders and senior managers from all walks of life who could potentially play a role in shaping the future of Belfast. The council has supported Common Purpose Belfast since its inception in 1996.

Key Issues

Common Purpose Belfast has made a request to the council for £6,000 funding. The money will be used to offer three part funded places on the “Navigator” Programme for emerging leaders from non-profit organisations in Belfast. Last year council funded participants from UnLtd Belfast (a charity supporting social entrepreneurs), NI Cancer Fund for Children and EXTERN.

The application is being made in the context of Section 115 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. The Committee is advised that the application meets the criteria for funding and that the level of funding requested is affordable. A copy of the criteria is provided at Appendix One.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree to the £6,000 funding to Common Purpose Belfast to be used to part fund 3 participants on the Common Purpose “Navigator” programme from non-profit organisations operating in Belfast.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Section 115 Criteria

APPENDIX 1

B Policy and Resources Committee,
2772 Friday, 18th June, 2004

Special Expenditure Budget - criteria to be applied in the assessment of requests:

- (1) whether there are sufficient funds remaining in the Council's Special Expenditure budget for the relevant financial year;
- (2) whether the application for financial assistance links to any of the Council's Corporate Objectives;
- (3) whether the direct benefit to be obtained is specific to the Council or its district or inhabitants;
- (4) whether the activity or initiative in respect of which assistance is being sought is being promoted by a person or organisation living or operating, or otherwise having a direct connection with, the City;
- (5) whether the request for financial assistance relates to an event or initiative which falls within the remit and statutory power of any other Committee of the Council (in which case it should be so referred);
- (6) whether the request relates to a specific event, activity or initiative as distinct from a request for a contribution to general funds;
- (7) whether the benefit to be obtained will be commensurate with the payment to be made.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council would nevertheless reserve to itself the right to give special consideration to any particular request for financial assistance if the Members consider that special circumstances apply and legal advice has been sought where appropriate.