

11. BELFAST TOASTMASTERS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Community Services Group
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Community Support
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's consideration of an application for funding of \$1,000 from Belfast Toastmasters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Belfast Toastmasters is a group in the process of establishing itself. It is seeking funding to enable it to purchase equipment necessary to get under way.
3. Toastmasters is a world-wide organisation with over 200,000 club. There are 23 clubs in Christchurch, but none in the area around Belfast, an area with a rapidly expanding population. The nearest club is Northside Toastmasters which meets in Redwood.
4. Belfast Toastmasters has the potential to add value to the social fabric of the Belfast area. There is also the risk that the Club may not be successful in establishing itself, a factor that needs to be considered in assessing this application for funding.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. As this is a group that is yet to become fully functioning, it has not yet produced a set of financial accounts. However, the latest bank statement (January 2007) shows a balance of \$279.40.

6. The items for which the Club is seeing a contribution towards are:

Whiteboard	\$ 380.00
Speech Manuals	\$ 140.00
Overhead Projector	\$ 499.00
Screen	\$ 593.00
Trophies	\$ <u>192.00</u>
	\$1,804.00

7. The Club has supplied quotes for all of the above.
8. During the pre-establishment phase the amount of donated materials has been estimated at approximately \$600 and around 100 hours of voluntary effort has been put into the establishment.
9. As the group is not yet established it will have difficulty applying to other sources for funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board approves a grant of between \$500 and \$1,000 from its 2006/07 Discretionary Fund towards the purchase of a whiteboard, speech manuals, overhead projector, screen and trophies.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve a one-off grant of \$1,000 from its 2006/07 Discretionary Fund to Belfast Toastmasters to assist with the purchase of a whiteboard, speech manuals, overhead projector, screen and trophies.

BACKGROUND ON BELFAST TOASTMASTERS

10. The primary purpose of Belfast Toastmasters will be to train people to improve their ability to speak in front of others with confidence. Further, the group wishes to assist people in improving their speaking, listening and thinking skills generally.
11. The Club intends holding weekly meetings with a structured programme including speeches from manuals with guidance from mentors.
12. The Club hopes to be able to achieve a membership of 20, which would enable it to become a Chartered Club.
13. The Club has been offered the use of the Belfast Community Network premises rent-free until such time as the Club becomes financially able to afford a rental.

OPTIONS

14. The Community Board has three options available:
 - (a) To allocate a grant to the full amount requested.
 - (b) To decline the application.
 - (c) To give a partial grant.

PREFERRED OPTION

15. This is a new Club in the establishment phase. If the Club is successful it will add to the social strength of the Belfast area. It appears to have support in the area, as evidenced by the donated materials and voluntary input. However, as this is a Club yet to become fully established, there is a risk that the Club may not be successful in getting fully established. There is a need for support at this early stage to give it the best chance at becoming established, yet recognising the risks involved. For this reason, option (c) above is the preferred option.