

## Extracts from NIHACT's Audited Accounts for 2006/07

### Grants Awarded

Organisation	£
Ark Housing Association (playground)	23,618
Homeplus	5,000
Beyond Skin	2,000
Childline (NI)	1,510
Belfast Community Housing Association (soccer tournament)	711
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,839</b>

### Income

Source	£
Donations (from 10 housing associations)	7,150
Bank interest	7,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,370</b>

### Deficit

NIHACT incurred a deficit of £18,912 in 2006/07

### Accumulated Fund

NIHACT's accumulated fund stood at £197,070 at 31 March 2007.

# Northern Ireland Housing Associations' Charitable Trust

## Annual Report 2006 / 2007

Charitable backing for:

- ★ good practice;
- ★ innovation;
- ★ user involvement;
- ★ quality of life for users;
- ★ addressing unmet needs;
- ★ a strong voluntary housing sector



**During 2006/07 the Trust improved its strategic planning and continued to handle applications for assistance in a highly cost-effective manner.**

The Committee considered thirteen applications for assistance. Six were approved, three were not accepted (because they were essentially "repeat" applications from projects the Trust had recently supported) and four were being assessed at the year-end.

Young people were the main beneficiaries of NIHACT grants in 2006/07. Those under the age of



ten now enjoy an excellent playground in a supported housing project, teenagers worked off some energy in a cross-community soccer tournament and children who telephone for help may speak to a volunteer adviser whose training was funded by NIHACT. In addition, the Trust agreed to pay for a Sports



Development Plan to help the young members of Eastside Boxing Club raise funds for proper facilities.

The Trust also promoted the social integration of people from other cultures when it offered a grant to launch a project called Beyond Skin. This enables musicians of all nationalities to practice, perform and record together.



The plight of destitute people on our streets was not overlooked. NIHACT supported the volunteers of Homeplus by releasing an initial tranche of a grant at the end of the financial year.

The Committee continued to discuss how best to use the limited resources at its disposal. It concluded that NIHACT should, in general:

- ★ build on its natural affinity with the housing association movement
- ★ give preference to applications likely to enhance the social, economic or environmental sustainability

of communities in which housing association homes are located

- ★ encourage more housing associations to make regular donations to NIHACT
- ★ approach other potential donors when a broader base of support from housing associations had been established
- ★ continue to rely on the voluntary effort of Committee members to assess applications
- ★ contribute towards the cost of the staff time and serviced office accommodation that NIFHA makes available to the Trust
- ★ limit its grant expenditure to a total of £30,000 p.a. until such time as the Trust's income has grown substantially
- ★ award no more than £5,000 per project.

These principles were encapsulated in funding criteria approved by NIHACT's Trustee, the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations. The criteria and the Trust's procedure for handling applications for assistance can be viewed on the Federation's website [www.nifha.org](http://www.nifha.org)

Although it had a full complement of able and dedicated committee members, NIHACT advertised for people interested in voluntary

service. This was done through Northern Ireland's regional newspapers and by posting the material on NIFHA's website. The procedure is in keeping with best practice and widens the pool of talent from which NIHACT might draw when the need arises.

The Trust is very grateful for the contribution made by Robert Roulston, who stepped down from the Committee in June 2006. It was also delighted to welcome Tom McCurley and Ian Elliott, whose appointment brought the Committee up to full strength.

The Committee is greatly encouraged that the number of housing associations making donations to NIHACT increased from seven to ten and the total of their donations rose by 62%. The Trust sincerely thanks those associations and appeals to the others to start contributing.

NIHACT still receives more income from interest on the Trust fund than from all of its donors! This sobering fact serves to emphasise that NIHACT cannot indefinitely continue to give away more money than it receives.

