

7. CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF LEISURE AND SUSTAINABILITY & HEAD OF ECONOMIC PROMOTION & PLANNING

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Wards: All
Affected:
Key Decision: No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present 19 Facility, Small Revenue and Economic & Community Development grant applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered under both the Facility, Small Revenue and Economic & Community Development funds and the recommendations from the Grants Assessment Group on the level of financial assistance to be awarded to each organisation are detailed as follows:

Facility Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Crawley Down Community Centre Association	Automatic doors	£9,000	£9,000
St John the Evangelist Church, Copthorne	Lift, kitchen, audio visual equipment, rainwater harvesting and cycle shed	£24,900	£24,900
East Grinstead Town Council	St Swithun's Parish Church wall	£47,302	£47,302
Crawley Down Cricket Club	Asbestos removal	£7,800	£7,800
Burgess Hill Youth	Multi-use games area refurbishment	£19,710	£19,710
St Andrews Parish Church, Burgess Hill	Community hall building works	£200,000	defer
Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead	Audio visual equipment	£25,000	£25,000
Total		£333,712	£133,712

Economic and Community Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
East Grinstead Sports Club	Kingscote Valley project business plan and promotional materials	£2,850	£2,850
Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall	Village hall refurbishment	£14,800	£14,800
Turners Hill Parish Council	Environmental health alterations	£2,511	£2,511
Ashdown Forest Tourism Association	Promotion of Ashdown Forest Tourism Association to Mid Sussex businesses	£3,500	Nil
East Grinstead Town Council	Contribution towards Summer Events Music Concerts and a Street Party to commemorate the 70 th anniversary of VE Day	£2,500	£2,500
Adastra Hall/Hassocks Community Association	Main hall and rooms re-decoration	£2,000	Nil
Total		£28,161	£22,661

Small Revenue Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
4 th East Grinstead Scout Group	Contribution towards a (second-hand) vehicle for towing equipment	£4,000	Nil
East Grinstead CVS	Projector	£587	£587
Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network	Equipment for outdoor activities programme	£1,294	£1294
Kangaroos	Contribution towards PALS Saturday Club and Playscheme	£5,000	£2500
Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus	Contribution towards the Advisor, Social and Buddy Service	£2,000	£800
Tadpoles Swimming Club	Contribution towards Replacement Equipment and Pool Hire Costs	£1,000	£600
Total		£13,881	£5,781

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to:

- (a) consider and decide upon the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendices A,B and C of this report.***
 - (b) note the update report relating to the previous Capital and Facility Grants awarded up to 2013/14 and consider any recommendations which are detailed in Appendix D of this report, and;***
 - (c) note the End of Grant Reports for the Small Revenue grants awarded during 2013/2014 in Appendix E of this report.***
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Background

3. This is the third and final meeting in the 2014/2015 financial year, which considers Small Revenue and Facility development applications under the Corporate Grants Scheme. Partnership Agreement applications were considered by Cabinet on February 10th 2014.
4. Applications for all grants are assessed against a standard checklist and considered by a "Grants Assessment Group" to ensure a consistent approach to the awarding of grants.

Assessment and Policy Context

5. All applications are assessed against the criteria for the grant scheme, the strategic cultural and economic context and the Council's corporate priorities.
6. The small revenue grant applications received in this grants round have been considered by the Grants Assessment Group comprising relevant officers from across the authority together with a representative from West Sussex County Council's Public Health, and, unless there is a conflict of interest, the local Council for Voluntary Service.
7. The Group reaches a consensus as to the merit of each application judged against the agreed criteria and the level of funding that should be recommended to the

Cabinet Grants Panel. Additionally, the Group takes into account the limited budget available and the consideration of further grants round in this financial year.

8. The presence of outside representatives on the group has enabled effective information exchange with regard to any possible duplication of funding and service delivery. A summary of the assessment of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendices A, B and C.
9. All organisations have met the basic criteria and specific grant criteria, i.e. are fully constituted voluntary and not for profit organisations, and have provided the relevant information to support their application.

Facility Grants Update and End of Revenue Grants Report

10. The Facility Grants Update and End of Revenue Grants Report are attached in Appendices D and E. The reports provide an update on the current facility improvements awarded under the Facility Grants Scheme and details of the outcomes relating to the Small Revenue grants awarded in 2013/14.

Other Options Considered

11. The grants provided by this Council are 'pump priming' in the context of enabling the applicants to lever in substantial monies from other organisations, grant-giving charities and national schemes.

Financial Implications

12. Members will recall that Facility Grants are funded by the use of S106 contributions which the Council holds for the enhancement of capacity for sport, community buildings and other purposes as a result of residential development.
13. The total Revenue Grants budget for 2014/15 is £253,017. Cabinet agreed to support six organisations under the Partnership Agreement arrangements totalling £227,926 at their meeting of 10th February 2014 and subsequent meetings of this panel have allocated a sum of £14,420.
14. The remaining £1,653 of the Spotlight budget of £5,000 has been added to the Small Revenue Grants budget.
15. Therefore the remaining budget for the revenue Corporate Grants Scheme for 2014/15 is as follows:

Scheme	Budget for 2014/15	Allocated and spent to date	Balance for 2014/15
Partnership Agreements	£227,926	£227,926	£0
Small Revenue Grants	£21,744	£14,420	£7,324
Spotlight Grants	£3,347	£3,347	£0
Total	£253,017	£245,693	£7,324

Scheme	Fund as at April 2014	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Economic & Community Development Fund	£183,719	£79,159	£104,560

16. Should members agree to the Officer recommendations as they stand there will be £1,543 remaining in the Small Revenue grants budget and therefore underspend for 2014/15.

Risk Management Implications

17. The main associated risks that may impact upon the successful implementation of the decisions arising from this report would be the inability of the funded organisations to carry out the services, activities or equipment purchase for which funding had been awarded.
18. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
19. A Contract is signed at the application stage by organisations seeking funding that details the terms and conditions under which the grant is given, including the return of all monies to the Council should the purpose for which the grant is awarded not materialise. In respect of Capital Grants, the Council may impose additional safeguards.
20. All organisations are requested to complete an End of Grant Report at the end of the funding period and required to submit information relating to the grant including purchase invoices, details of the number of residents benefiting from the grant, annual accounts, how the grant was used etc.
21. It is considered that these measures would mitigate the main risks from materialising and indicate a low-risk to the successful outcomes arising from this report.

Equality and customer service implications

22. As part of the assessment process all of the organisations applying for funding from the Council have complied with the required conditions of funding and have the requisite policies and procedures in place including any other relevant legislation.

Legal Implications

23. The Council is not obliged to provide grant funding, but by virtue of section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, it is able to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area. This includes the incurring of expenditure, giving financial assistance to any person (or organisation) and entering into arrangements or agreements with any person.

Background Papers

24. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Small Revenue and Economic & Community Development Grants and individual Facility Grant project files are held in the Community Services and Culture Section.