

## 8. CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

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

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**Wards Affected:** All  
**Key Decision:** No

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### Purpose of the report

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

### Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered under the Facility, Small Revenue and Community & Economic 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
Worth Parish Council	Youth shelter and fitness equipment	32,241	32,241
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,241</b>	<b>32,241</b>

### Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Haywards Heath Community CIC	Winter Market marquees	3,640	3,640
Haywards Heath Town Team	175 <sup>th</sup> Railway Anniversary Celebrations	5,000	5,000
East Grinstead Business Association	Welcome signage at EG Station	1,000	1,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,640</b>	<b>9,640</b>

## Small Revenue Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Chestnut Tree House	Feeding Bottles	£660	£660
Kangaroos Mid Sussex	Contribution towards the PALS Saturday Club	£5,000	£3,500
Nature Nurture Sussex	Equipment and training costs	£1,012	£1,000
Respect Youth Club	Public Liability Insurance and Hire Costs of NTC Hut	£720	£720
Revitalise Respite Holidays	Contribution towards 10 weeks of Respite Holiday Breaks for Mid Sussex residents	£500	£500
St Catherine's Hospice	Equipment for a medical bag	£400	£400
Summerhaven	Contribution towards running costs	£1,000	£1,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£9,292</b>	<b>£7,780</b>

## Spotlight Grants – Older People

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Age Concern Hassocks & District	Portable PA system and accessories	£399	£399
Age UK West Sussex	Therapy Chair	£570	£570
Mid Sussex Older People's Council	Leaflet and brochure redesign and print run	£905	£823
Sir Henry Price Trust (Almshouses)	Cost of Garden Party	£500	£500
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,374</b>	<b>£2,292</b>

## Recommendations

***Members of the Panel are requested to consider and decide upon the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendices A, B, C and D of this report.***

## Background

1. This is the second meeting in the 2015/2016 financial year, which considers Small Revenue, Facility and Community and Economic Development grant applications. At this meeting, the Cabinet Grants Panel are also asked to consider the Spotlight Grant applications, which for 2015, are focussing on projects that aim to improve the lives of older people living in Mid Sussex.
2. 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**

3. All applications are assessed against the criteria for the grant scheme, the strategic cultural context and the Council's corporate priorities.
4. The 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.
5. 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.
6. 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, C and D.
7. 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.

## **Proposed Review of the Corporate Grants Scheme**

8. Officers are proposing to review the Corporate Grants scheme with the aim to recommend suggested improvements to the current scheme and to recommend the amalgamation of the Council's Small Revenue and Community & Economic Development grants into one stream; the objective being to make the process more effective, less confusing and provide greater clarity for potential applicants.
9. Additionally, the review will look at adopting more robust assessment criteria to ensure that the awards are supporting the Council's strategic objectives, of local need and for community benefit.
10. A report will be presented to next meeting for Panel members to consider prior to setting out the proposals for consideration by Cabinet. Any changes proposed will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

## **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. All Facility Grants are funded through 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. Members may recall that as part of the savings for 2015/16, the Council agreed to remove the small revenue grants budget and fund the grants from the Community & Economic Development budget; therefore all awards from this round will be funded from that budget which currently stands as follows:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Fund as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015</b>	<b>Allocated and spent to date</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Community & Economic Development	£128,000	£39,134*	£88,866

\*excludes a commitment of £2,500 to the H.H. District Business Association agreed under Cabinet Member delegation in later September.

14. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £19,712 leaving a remainder of £69,154 for the final grants round for 2015/16.

### **Risk Management Implications**

15. 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.
16. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
17. 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 Facility Grants, the Council may impose additional safeguards.
18. 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.
19. 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**

20. 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**

21. 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**

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