

9. 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

Purpose of the report

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

Summary

2. A summary of the applications to be considered 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
East Grinstead Cricket Club	Refurbish cricket squares	5,000	5,000
St Lawrence Church of England Primary School	Swimming pool cover and upgrade	20,000	20,000
Sheddingdean Baptist Church	Construction of new church with community facilities	235,000	27,133
Total		£ 260,000	£52,133

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Lindfield Arts Festival	Community participation day	1,200	1,200
Disability Access	Support for disabled people	1,000	1,000
Burgess Hill Shed	Practical workshop space for adults	1,580	1,580
Kangaroos	Activity centre residential for children with learning difficulties	500	500
Family Support Work	Informal support group	1,972	1,775
Ashenground Community Centre	Open Afternoon showcase event	500	500
Writers on the Heath	Writing competition and website	1,666	1,200
Horsted Keynes Parish Council	Queens 90 th birthday celebratory picnic	500	500
Horsham and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action	Community room moving costs	1,037	1,037
Greater Brighton Economic Board	Partner Contribution 2016-17	11,234	11,234
Total		£ 21,189	£ 20,526

Sponsorship

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Media Sound Holdings	Sponsorship of the Community Award	900	900
Total		£ 900	£ 900

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) agree on the theme for the 2016/2017 Spotlight Grants Programme.*

Background

1. This is the first meeting in the 2016/2017 financial year, which considers Facility and Community and Economic Development grant applications. At this meeting, the Cabinet Grants Panel are also asked to consider an application for Sponsorship for which there is a separate budget allocation.
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 and 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 and C.
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.

Spotlight Grants Programme

8. The annual Spotlight Programme which was launched in 2006/2007 is intended to highlight specific local priorities within the district of Mid Sussex and give particular parts of the community more emphasis.

9. It is suggested that Members choose the theme for the Spotlight grants in 2016/17 from one of the following, or any other ideas:
- Mental health
 - Arts, culture and heritage
 - Small organisations with a turnover of under £10,000 pa.
10. The Spotlight Grants are usually around £500 and are aimed at new innovative projects and exclude those that are already on-going and running costs. Small grants will be made available to voluntary/community groups for one-off projects/events, or items of equipment, that aim to improve the lives of Mid Sussex residents.
11. All applications need to meet the basic criteria of the corporate grants scheme and the standard assessment process will be applied. The Spotlight applications will be considered at the autumn meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Other Options Considered

12. 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

13. 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.
14. Following various small underspends on previously agreed grants and a decision by the Cabinet at their March meeting the current fund stands at:

Scheme	Fund as at 6 April 2016	Additional funds approved	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£95,928	£0	(£4,000)	£91,928

15. Those allocated and spent grants include some carry over grants which were agreed last financial year and also some Cabinet Member delegate applications agreed during this year. The allocated and spent sum relates to a two year award to the Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board (£4,000 per year for two years) which was agreed by the panel on 2 June 2015.
16. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £20,526 leaving a remainder of £71,402 in the Community & Economic Development fund reserve.

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 Facility 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

Grant applications and associated documentation for the Community & Economic Development and Facility Grants are held in the Community Services and Culture Section.