

7. CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present eleven Facility, Community & Economic Development and Spotlight 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
Burgess Hill Town Council	Public Arts Trail on Green Circle	75,500	75,500
East Grinstead Town Council	Play equipment at East Court	8,787	8,787
Jubilee Community Centre	Changing Places disability toilet	10,000	10,000
Copthorne Sports and Community Association	Playing pitch drainage	35,000	35,000
Total		£129,287	£129,287

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Haywards Heath Youth CIC	Young people's gardening project	606	606
Summerhaven	Mental health drop-in	1,000	1,000
Revitalise Respite Holidays	Respite carers break	3,540	3,540
Kangaroos	Saturday and holiday club for young people with learning disabilities	5,000	5,000
Mill Hill Residents Association	Defibrillator	1,370	500
Total		£11,516	£10,646

Spotlight

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Burgess Hill Marching Youth	Band uniforms	480	480
Handcross Rosemary Club	Christmas celebration	500	250
Total		£980	£730

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.***

Background

1. This is the second 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 Spotlight Grant applications of up to £500, which for 2016, will be used to support smaller organisations with a turnover of less than £10,000.
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. The application guidelines, application form and assessment criteria were reviewed earlier this year and revised documentation was agreed by Cabinet in March 2016.
4. The new assessment process was used to score applications against four key criteria – Council priorities, evidence of need, finances impact and benefits. The maximum possible score for excellent applications which fully meet all the criteria is 12.
5. 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 Communities and Public Health teams, and, unless there is a conflict of interest, the local Council for Voluntary Service.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Other Options Considered

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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	(£25,447)	£70,481

12. The allocated and spent column includes some carry over grants which were agreed last financial year and also one Cabinet Member delegated application agreed during this year.

13. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £11,376, leaving a remainder of £59,105 in the Community & Economic Development fund reserve.

Risk Management Implications

14. 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.

15. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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

19. 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

20. 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 Performance and Partnerships Section.