

7. CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
Contact Officer: Peter Stuart, Head of Corporate Resources
Email Peter.Stuart@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477315
Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present one Facility Grant application for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel. Panel Members are also asked to approve a small grants scheme to support Silver Sunday and a grant payment to Cuckfield Cricket Club.

Summary

2. A summary of the application to be considered and the recommendation from the Grants Assessment Group on the level of financial assistance to be awarded is as follows:

Facility Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Lindfield Cricket Club	Acoustic quilts for cricket nets	2,860	2,860
Total		£2,860	£2,860

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to consider and decide upon:

- a) *the recommendation for the above application, the summary of which is attached in Appendix A*
- b) *a small grants scheme to support Silver Sunday events*
- c) *grant payment to Cuckfield Cricket Club*

Background

1. This is the first meeting in the 2017/18 financial year, which considers Facility, and Community and Economic Development Grant applications.
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.
3. At this meeting, the Cabinet Grants Panel is also asked to consider a small grants scheme for Silver Sunday events and an award to Cuckfield Cricket Club.

Silver Sunday

4. It is proposed that £7,500 should be set aside from the Community and Economic Development budget to provide a ring-fenced fund for groups to apply for small one-off grants of up to £250 to run Silver Sunday events.

5. Silver Sunday is an annual day of fun and free activities for older people across the UK, which takes place in October. It celebrates the value and knowledge older people contribute to our communities while combating loneliness and isolation. The Council is organizing an event in East Grinstead on 8 October, to be hosted by Sir Nicholas Soames, and we would like to encourage community groups to get involved to mark Silver Sunday at local events to celebrate older people.
6. If agreed, the Council will promote the opportunity through the Voluntary Sector Network and invite applications to be submitted by 23 June 2017. A Cabinet Grants Panel meeting will be held in early August to consider the bids which will give the groups approximately six weeks to organise their own events.
7. We will make it a condition of funding that the events should be promoted through the Silver Sunday website <https://silversunday.org.uk/>.

Cuckfield Cricket Club

8. In September 2013, Cuckfield Cricket Club was awarded a Facility Grant of £30,000 toward a project to build four new changing rooms and it was a condition of funding that the project should be completed by August 2015.
9. The club drew down £20,767 and advised the Council that the work was completed in June 2015. They intended to draw down the remaining £9,233 following the end of the defects liability period in December 2015. They were asked to submit invoices as evidence of expenditure and an End of Grants form but this information was not forthcoming.
10. As a result, at the Cabinet Grants Panel meeting in February 2017, members were presented with an update on previous Facility Grants (Appendix E) which advised that these funds were no longer required and should be returned to the 'pot'.
11. In March 2017, the cricket club contacted the Council to claim the final grant instalment but, as the Grants Panel had previously agreed to make this sum available for other projects, approval is required to release the remaining grant of £9,233.

Assessment and Policy Context

12. New applications are scored 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.
13. The application received in this grants round has 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.
14. The Group has the opportunity to comment on the merit of each application, which is judged against the agreed criteria, and the level of funding that should be recommended to the Cabinet Grants Panel.
15. 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 the application is included within the individual project report in Appendix A.

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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.

Risk Management Implications

19. 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.
20. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
21. 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.
22. 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. Grants of over £1,000 are released on receipt of evidence of expenditure.
23. 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

24. 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

25. 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.