

## CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

**REPORT OF:** HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES  
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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 thirteen Facility, Community & Economic Development 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
The Branch Line	Learning Centre and display materials	130,784	50,868
Crawley Down Community Centre Association (Haven Centre)	CCTV and hall refurbishments	24,379	24,379
Hassocks Parish Council	Adastra Wheel Park	75,000	75,000
Lindfield Cricket Club	Pavilion extension	55,000	55,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 285,163</b>	<b>£ 205,247</b>

### Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Ashenground Community Centre	Outdoor games	500	500
Ashurst Wood Youth Club	Indoor games tables	698	698
Brighton Science Festival	Pocket Science Funfair	5,000	5,000
Greater Brighton Economic Board	Annual contribution	11,234	11,234
Hurst Festival	Graffiti workshop	2,000	1,250
Keymer & Hassocks Cricket Club	Artificial Wicket	3,500	3,500
Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church	Improvements to community facilities and access	5,000	5,000
Lindfield Arts Festival	Circus, theatre and visual art	2,500	2,500
Maple Drive Community Group	Summer Fayre	480	480
<b>Total</b>		<b>£30,912</b>	<b>£30,162</b>

## 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 and B;*
- b) note the sums ring-fenced from the Community & Economic Development budget to support Silver Sunday Events and the Beacons of Light Schemes (paras 7-11); and*
- c) consider and decide upon the grant recommendation to the Haywards Heath and District Business Association (paras 12-16).*

## Background

1. This is the first meeting in the 2018/19 financial year, which considers Facility and Community & 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.

## Assessment Process

3. Applications are assessed 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.
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 Communities and Public Health Teams, 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. A summary of the assessment of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendices A and B.
6. 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.

## Silver Sunday

7. Silver Sunday is a national celebration of older people and their contribution to communities. Silver Sunday was launched in 2012 by The Sir Simon Milton Foundation and Councillor Christabel Flight, after a report discovered more than a third of people over 75 said they were lonely. The aim was to celebrate older residents and to help them get out and about and meet new people.
8. The Chairman of the Cabinet Grants Panel has agreed to offer grants of up to £250 for any activities held in October that provide an opportunity for older people to try something new, meet new people and have an uplifting day such as a tea party, a classic film showing, an informative talk, music or dance performance or simply a healthy walk. Any activity for older people over the age of 65 that's fun and engaging will be considered.

9. In 2017, the Council awarded grants for eleven Silver Sunday Events. We hope to receive more applications this year and have provisionally allocated £5,000 from the Community & Economic Development Grants budget toward up to twenty awards. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2018 and a report will be presented for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel at the end of July.

### **WWI Beacons of Light**

10. In commemoration and remembrance of the end of World War 1 and the many millions who were killed or came home dreadfully wounded, 1000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 7pm on 11th November 2018 throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. The Beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war.
11. The Chairman of the Cabinet Grants Panel has agreed to offer grants of £250 to each of the twenty-four Town and Parish Councils in the District to support them to take part in this national initiative. The sum of £6,000 has been ring-fenced from the community & Economic Development to fund this scheme.

### **Haywards Heath and District Business Association**

12. The Haywards Heath and District Business Association (HHDBA) submitted an application for a £5,000 grant toward the costs of rebranding and relaunching. The application lacked detail and when the assessment report was considered by the Cabinet Grants Panel on 31 October 2017, the Members 'requested that additional information and a business plan be requested to enable the Chair to reach a decision about grant funding'.
13. The business association has had some personnel issues and was slow to respond to our request for additional information but on 25 May 2018 they submitted further project information including the business plan and a quote for £2,400 for the development of a new website.
14. The business plan indicates that they are aiming to increase membership and run up to twenty events each year. They currently employ a Business Manager for 48 hours per month and need an additional £1,020 to increase their hours to 60 per month to manage this project. If they are successful in building the membership base they should be able to sustain the extra hours.
15. The new website will require less manual inputting, it will be easier to book events and for new members to join up online, the business directory will be improved, news will be updated regularly and the ongoing costs will be reduced. HHDBA also intend to rebrand and will produce new leaflets, pull up banners and business cards. They have included a price list and the cost of the printed publicity will amount to approximately £675 (based on 1,000 leaflets, 6 x 1,000 business cards and 3 pop-up banners) plus design and artwork fees.
16. The committee members are all unpaid volunteers who are local business owners. They are keen to develop the association and this award would enable them to relaunch and improve their website, marketing and social media communications. On the basis of the additional information submitted, it is recommended that the amount of the award be increased from £1,500 to £4,500, which would require the business association to contribute 10% in match funding to make up the total project cost.

### **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.
19. Community & Economic Development Grants are funded through a dedicated budget. The current fund stands at:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Fund as at 6 April 2018</b>	<b>Additional funds approved</b>	<b>Allocated and spent to date</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Community & Economic Development	£96,830	£0	(£21,289)	£75,541

20. The allocated to date figure includes the sums ring-fenced for Silver Sunday and Beacons of Light initiatives plus grants awarded to the Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup agreed through a Cabinet Member report (MIS bulletin No. 16).
21. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £34,662, leaving a remainder of £40,879 in the Community & Economic Development Fund reserve.

### Risk Management Implications

22. 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.
23. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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

27. 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**

28. 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, Policy and Performance Section.