

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 one Community & Economic Development application for re-consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Summary

2. A summary of the application 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:

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network	'Wild About Mid Sussex' free exhibition	4,366	1,000 (in addition to £1,000 awarded 29-Oct-19)
Total		£4,366	£1,000

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to

- a) ***consider and decide upon the recommendation for the above applications, a summary of which is attached in Appendix A***

Background

3. 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

4. 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.
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. A summary of the assessment of the application is included within the individual project report in Appendix A.

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.

Other Options Considered

8. 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

9. 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.
10. Community & Economic Development Grants are funded through a dedicated budget. The current fund stands at:

Scheme	Fund as at 1 April 2019	Additional funds approved	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£94,504	£0	(£70,337)	£4,373

11. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £1,000, leaving a remainder of £3,373 in the Community & Economic Development Fund reserve.

Risk Management Implications

12. 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.
13. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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

17. 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

18. 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.