

CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

(Release of S106 Contributions and Community & Economic Development Grants)

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 Community & Economic Development grant applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.
2. The report also provides information on the plans to review the grants scheme which includes a suspension of the next Community & Economic Development grants round of 1 September 2020

Summary

3. 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:

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
4Sight Vision	Outreach service	£5,635	£1,386
Albourne, Sayers Common & Twineham PCC	Car Park improvements	£500	£500
Haywards Heath Town Council	HHTC Emergency Food Hub	£5,000	Refer to Covid-19 funds
Hurst Festival	Hurst Home Virtual Festival	£1,500	£1,500
TOTAL		£12,635	£3,386

Applications considered but NO GRANT awarded

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested
Albion in the Community	Part fund Premier League Kicks youth project	£4,999
Artic Handball Club	VE Day tournament and equipment	£4,994
East Grinstead Town Council	East Court Live	£5,000
Friends of St Marks Primary School	School outdoor equipment	£5,000
Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club	Pavilion Club improvements	£3,860
Maple Drive Community Group	Community Fun Day	£469

Tot Rockin' Beats	SEND friendly Dad La Soul sessions	£4,373
TOTAL		£28,695

Recommendations

4. **Members of the Panel are requested to consider and decide upon:**
- a) **the recommendation for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendix A;**
 - b) **the recommendation to suspend the next Community & Economic Development grants round on 1 September 2020**
 - c) **Panel members are also asked to agree to receive a paper reviewing and recommending changes to the Community & Economic Development grant scheme at the next panel meeting**
 - d) **Extensions of time for Release of S106 for projects delayed by Covid-19 (para 16)**

Background

5. Applications for all grants and the Release of S106 contributions are assessed against a standard checklist and considered by a "Grants Assessment Group" to ensure a consistent approach to the awarding funds.

Assessment Process

6. 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.
7. The applications received in this funding 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.
8. 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.
9. All organisations have met the basic current 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. The existing criteria is currently under review and proposals will be presented in future papers.

Other Options Considered

10. The awards 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.

Suspension of September 2020 grants round and review

11. The Community & Economic Development grant scheme was reviewed in March 2016 which resulted in the previous Small Revenue and Community & Economic Development Grants being merged into one. The review also improved the grants assessment process, guidelines and application form. In July 2018 further changes were made with the discontinuation of the Spotlight Grant programme
12. A recent overview of applications has highlighted a number of important issues including repeat applications from organisations looking to fund running costs, funding for projects that have no identified exit or future funding strategies. To address these issues along with the impact of Covid-19 on services and future budgets, it is felt important to re-assess the criteria, guidelines and grants assessment process. To do this effectively it is recommended that the next Community & Economic Development grants round (deadline 1 September 2020) is suspended and that the Panel receive a paper on a review and future recommendations for the grants scheme at the next Cabinet Grants Panel meeting after the September deadline.

Release of S106 Contributions

13. Capital projects funded through the Release of S106 contributions are being affected by Covid-19 lockdown. A number of applicants have been in contact as they are concerned that delivery will be delayed and in some cases project completion will exceed the timescales agreed as a condition of the award.
14. East Grinstead Sports Club was unable to complete the facility improvements as they were instructed to close the building. The final sum of £1,970 should have been paid by the end of March 2020 but they will need an extension of time. A small amount of work is outstanding on the children's social area.
15. Burgess Hill Town Council have advised that due to the social distancing rules/regulations they have been unable to relocate the Emily Temple Memorial Stone and require an extension of time.
16. Applicants have been advised to follow Government guidance and only carry out the work when it is safe to do so. As the working environment remains challenging it is recommended that these projects are offered an extension of time until the end of the current financial year. An update on the progress of Release of S106 awards will be provided at the next meeting.
17. No new applications for the Release of S106 contributions were received for this funding round.

Financial Implications

18. Release of S106 contributions 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 Development Grants are funded through a dedicated reserve. The balance held in the Community Development Fund Reserve as at 1 April 2020 was £100,586 which included a £50,000 contribution from General Reserve at Outturn 2019/20. The amount spent in 2020/21 (as at 15 June 2020) was £2,790, which would leave a balance remaining in the reserve of £97,796.
20. The amounts committed but not paid as at 15 June 2020 are £75,585 which leaves a balance of £22,211 if all the committed grants are paid.

21. The total amount of the Community & Economic Development Grant proposed in this Cabinet Grants Panel is £3,386, which leaves a balance of £18,825 if all the committed grants are paid.
22. Funds are allocated to the Community and Economic Development Reserve at outturn.

Risk Management Implications

23. 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.
24. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
25. A Contract is signed at the application stage by organisations seeking funding that details the terms and conditions under which the grant or Release of S106 Contributions is given, including the return of all monies to the Council should the purpose for which the funds are awarded not materialise. In respect of the Release of S106 Contributions, the Council may impose additional safeguards.
26. All organisations in receipt of Community & Economic Development Grants 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.
27. 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

28. 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

29. 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 Release of S106 Contributions are held in the Community Services, Policy and Performance Section.