

CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES
(Release of S106 Contributions and Covid Emergency Response Fund)

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
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01444 477275 Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to

1. Present three Release of S106 Contributions for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.
2. Present one Release of Covid-19 Emergency Responses Request for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel

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:

Release of S106 contributions

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Ansty Village Centre Trust	Fit out of new community building	44,500	27,073
Ashenground Community Centre	Covid-19 Secure measures	2,642	2,642
Hurstpierpoint Allotment Association	Water tanks and standpipes	1,375	1,375
Total		£ 48,517	£ 31,090

Release of Covid19 Emergency Funds for Town Councils

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Release Requested	Release Suggested
East Grinstead Town Council	Costs incurring in immediate response to Covid19	2,408.53	2,408.53
Total		£2408.53	£2408.53

Recommendations

4. *Members of the Panel are requested to consider and decide upon:*
 - a) *the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendix A;*
 - b) *allow an extension of time and an amendment to the s106 contributions allocated to the Haywards Heath Tennis Club*

(para 10-11).

- c) amend the grant agreement with the St Francis Sports & Social Club to allow for a phased delivery of the project (para 12-15).**
- d) Release of Covid19 Support funds to East Grinstead Town Council (para 18)**

Background

- 5. Applications for the Release of S106 contributions are assessed against a set of standard criteria, as detailed in the General Guidelines for Voluntary and Community Groups, to ensure a consistent approach.

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. Information is shared with representatives of 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 who are invited to comment.
- 8. All organisations have met the necessary criteria, i.e. are fully constituted voluntary and not for profit organisations and have provided relevant information to support their application.

The Branch Line

- 9. On 26 February 2019, the Cabinet Grants Panel awarded £50,868 to The Branch Line toward a new a Learning Centre in Beech Hurst Garden subject to receipt of evidence that the project could be fully funded within twelve months. The panel is advised that The Branch Line was unable to raise the match funding required so these funds will be released and used to fund other projects.

Haywards Heath Tennis Club

- 10. The tennis club has secured Planning approval for the new clubhouse and is continuing to fundraise to deliver the project. The club has been working with Council to ensure the scheme aligns with the parks improvement programme and to consider an upgrade to the tennis courts, which are directly managed by Landscapes and Leisure. This has created some delay and they have requested a 12 month extension of time to October 2021 to secure the funds, with a further twelve months to deliver the project.
- 11. The new clubhouse will be made available for community hire for a minimum of 15 hours per week. It is therefore proposed that £15,000 in Community Buildings s106 contributions released from The Branch Line project should be re-allocated to this scheme to free up Formal Sport contributions for the tennis court improvements.

St Francis

12. In April 2019, the Cabinet Grants agreed to support a revised scheme put forward by the the St Francis Social & Sports Club CIC. Unfortunately, this scheme is currently on hold as the club cannot raise the match funding needed and it is proposed to deliver the project in two stages.
13. Stage 1 - the updated cost of the swimming pool changing rooms and associated drainage, services and professional fees amounts to £462,491. The Council has applied to Lewes District Council for a contribution toward this project, from CIL receipts from developments in Wivelsfield. If this bid is successful, it would enable St Francis to go ahead and deliver the swimming pool changing rooms in the next twelve months.
14. Stage 2 - St Francis Rangers FC is currently developing a proposal to upgrade the sports pitches and the community hall could potentially be included within this scheme. An update regarding the community hall will be provided in Spring 2021.
15. The Cabinet Grants Panel is requested to allow the club to proceed with the swimming pool changing rooms as the first stage of development using the Formal Sport s106 contributions already allocated to this scheme (£205,374) and CIL funds provided by Lewes District Council (if approved).

Covid-19

16. The Council is holding Community Building s106 contributions for the following sixteen facilities that are managed by community organisations – Jubilee Community Centre, King Edward Hall, The Yews, Ashenground Community Centre, Adastra Hall, The Meridian Hall, 1st Burgess Hill Scouts, Glen Vue, The Parish Hub, Copthorne, The Ark, Turners Hill, Sidney West Sports Community Centre, The Woodside Pavilion, 5th Burgess Hill Scout Group, West Hoathly Village Hall, Park Centre, Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre
17. These organisations were all invited to apply for the Release of s106 toward Covid-19 Secure improvements which would enable them to increase capacity and user numbers during the pandemic and in the future. Community halls were required to close in March 2020 but have now re-opened and are allowed to host clubs and activities attended by socially distanced individuals and groups no larger than six.

East Grinstead Town Council

18. In June 2020, following receipt of additional Government funds (the Covid19 Emergency Fund) to support District, Town and Parish Councils in their immediate response to Covid19; the Leader of this Council wrote to Town and Parish Councils informing them of funds available to support them in their immediate response to the COVID19 pandemic. East Grinstead Town Council has requested funds in the sum of £2,408.53 from this fund in contribution to the additional costs they have incurred.

Financial Implications

19. 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.
20. Release of Covid19 Emergency Funds to Town and Parish councils are funded through a specific, revenue allocation that was provided to the District Council in the early stages of the Covid19 pandemic. Sufficient funds remain to accommodate the modest request made by East Grinstead Town Council.

Risk Management Implications

21. 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 deliver projects for which the Release of s106 has been agreed.
22. A Contract is signed at the application stage by organisations seeking funding that details the terms and conditions under which the Release of S106 Contributions is given. In respect of the Release of S106 Contributions, the Council may also impose additional safeguards prior to payment. Funds are not released before evidence of project expenditure has been submitted.
23. It is considered that these measures 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.
26. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet Grants Panel is authorized to deal with the allocation of Section 106 monies.

Background Papers

- Applications and associated documentation for the Release of S106 Contributions are held in the Community Services, Policy and Performance Section.