

8. MICROBUSINESS GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: Programme Manager, Burgess Hill Growth Area
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present four microbusiness grant 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:

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Aprimatic Automation	Website design and marketing	£2000	£2000
Sahara Tanning Salons	IT equipment	£2000	£2000
Adams Garden Machinery	New storage facility	£2000	£2000
PAs of Excellence	New website and job boards	£2000	£2000
Total		£8000	£8000

NB – the suggested award is based in the assumption that due diligence checks have been satisfactorily passed. This will be confirmed, or otherwise, at the Cabinet Grants Panel meeting.

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 Appendix A of this report.***

Background

3. Seven applications were considered at the last meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel and all were awarded the full amount.
4. A number of outward communications are planned to raise the profile of the grant scheme, including an article in the next issue of Mid Sussex Matters featuring Basepoint and some of the successful applicants. In addition we will be sending a reminder to all Parish and Town Councils about the scheme and reaching out to other contacts.

Assessment and Policy Context

5. The applications received have been considered by Council Officers Rachel Ryan-Crisp and Gordon Reay. A summary of the assessment of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendix A
6. All organisations have met the basic criteria and specific grant criteria, i.e. are properly constituted micro-businesses and have provided the relevant information to support their application. As noted above, a verbal confirmation of the due diligence checks will be provided verbally at the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Financial Implications

7. The microbusiness grants are funded through an allocation from the WSCC business rates pool, with £500,000 to be divided equally between districts.
8. The current fund stands at:

Scheme	Original fund	Funds approved	Funds requested	Balance
Microbusiness grant	£71,400	£13,959	£8000	£49,441

Risk Management Implications

9. The main associated risk to the successful implementation of the decisions arising from this report is the inability of the funded organisations to carry out the services, activities or equipment purchase for which funding had been awarded.
10. To minimise this risk we have requested that recipient businesses provide proof of purchase of equipment or employment of the apprentice. We consider this a proportionate approach given the relatively small sums involved in this grant programme.

Equality implications

11. As part of the due diligence process all of the organisations for this funding from the Council have been assessed to be in compliance with the requisite policies/legislation.

Legal Implications

12. 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

13. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Microbusiness Grant Programme are held in the Burgess Hill Programme Management team.