

CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
Contact Officer: Elaine Clarke, Community Leisure Officer
Email elainec@midsussex.gov.uk Tel: 01444 477275
Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present nineteen Facility Grants, Community & Economic Development Grant applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel.
2. Panel Members are also asked to review the assessment criteria in relation to corporate priorities, decide on a theme for the Spotlight Grants round and consider a grant payment to Cuckfield Cricket Club.

Summary

3. A summary of the applications to be considered and the recommendation from the Grants Assessment Group on the level of financial assistance to be awarded is as follows:

Facility Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Burgess Hill Rugby Club	Clubhouse improvements	10,000	£10,000
Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre	Building refurbishments including new porch and solar panels	53,500	£53,500
East Grinstead Sports Club	Gym equipment, changing room upgrade, café and bar refurbishment	124,700	£97,333
East Grinstead Cricket Club	Pitch drainage	12,870	£12,870
Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club	Grounds maintenance equipment, facility improvements and training activities	35,254	£25,940*
Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre	New energy efficient boiler	3,000	£3,000
St Francis Bowls Club	Changing room improvements	10,486	£0
The Yews (Haywards Heath) Community Partnership	Rear garden revamp	9,721	£9,721
Totals		£259,531	£212,364

**£20,940 Facility Grant plus £5,000 Community & Economic Development Grant*

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Ardingly Parish Council	Zip wire at Ardingly Recreation Ground	5,000	£5,000
Balcombe Cricket Club	Extension of cricket pavilion for two new changing rooms	5,000	£5,000
Brighton Science Festival	Summer Pocket Science Festival	5,000	£1,000
The Conservation Volunteers	Green Gym project	5,000	£2,500
Know Dementia	Memory Moments café	1,774	£1,774
Lindfield Arts Festival	Creative workshops	2,500	£2,500
Mid Sussex RED	Military history events for children	5,000	£2,500
Nature Nurture Community Forest School	Summer sessions for families	2,400	£2,400
Rape Crisis Surrey and Sussex	Counselling Service	4,600	£4,600
St George's Millennium Garden Trust	Tree sculptures	450	£450
Greater Brighton Economic Board	Partner contribution to support the work of Greater Brighton Economic Board	£11,234	£11,234
Total		£47,958	£38,958

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to:

- a) consider and decide upon the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which is attached in Appendices A and B of this report.*
- b) review the assessment criteria in relation to corporate priorities.*
- c) agree on the theme for the 2017/2018 Spotlight Grants Programme.*
- d) consider a grant payment to Cuckfield Cricket Club.*

Background

4. This is the first meeting in the 2017/18 financial year, which considers Facility, Community and Economic Development Grant applications.
5. 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 and Policy Context

6. New applications are scored 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. All organisations have met the eligibility criteria and have provided information to support their application.
7. The application received in this grants round has been considered by the Grants Assessment Group comprising relevant officers from across the authority together with representatives 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. The Group has the opportunity to comment on the merit of each application.

8. The involvement of outside representatives enables effective information exchange with regard to any possible duplication of funding and service delivery. A summary of the assessment of each application is included within the individual project reports in Appendices A and B.

Corporate Priorities

9. Applicants are required to demonstrate how they can meet at least one of the Council's Corporate Priorities. In March 2017, these were revised and formally approved as part of the Corporate Plan and Budget 2017/18. The current grants round was assessed against the old priorities, as some groups were already working on bids, but in future the guidelines will be altered to reflect the new priorities.
10. The sub-themes have been discontinued but it is helpful to have some examples to illustrate how the voluntary sector can contribute toward the Councils priorities. It is suggested that the guidelines are updated as shown below to encourage applications that support the new priorities:

Corporate Priorities (2005)	Revised Corporate Priorities (2017)
Better Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient and Effective Services • Strong Community Leadership 	Financial Independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and Income Generation • Sustainable Start-Ups • Investment and Modernisation
Better Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and Sustainable Environment • Distinctive and Sustainable Towns and Villages 	Effective and Responsive Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Leadership • Access and Inclusion
Better Lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Lifestyles • Opportunities and Quality of Life for All • Strong, Safe Communities 	Sustainable Economic Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering, Training and Skills • Events and Attractions • Environmental Improvements
	Strong and Resilient Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Lifestyles • Leisure and Community Facilities • Community Activities and Services

Spotlight Grants

11. The annual Spotlight Programme which was launched in 2006/2007 is intended to highlight specific local priorities within the district of Mid Sussex and give particular parts of the community more emphasis.
12. It is suggested that Members choose the theme for the Spotlight grants in 2017/18 from one of the following, or any other ideas:
 - Supporting Volunteers
 - Tackling Isolation
 - Youth Projects

13. The Spotlight Grants are usually around £500 and are aimed at new innovative projects and exclude those that are already on-going and running costs. Small grants will be made available to voluntary/community groups for one-off projects/events, or items of equipment, that aim to improve the lives of Mid Sussex residents.
14. All applications need to meet the basic criteria of the corporate grants scheme and the standard assessment process will be applied. The Spotlight applications will be considered at the autumn meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Cuckfield Cricket Club

15. At the Cabinet Grants Panel meeting in April 2017, it was explained that Cuckfield Cricket Club had requested the final instalment of a grant awarded in September 2013. The club was awarded a Facility grant of £30,000 toward a project to build four new changing rooms, they drew down £20,767 but failed to claim the final instalment before the deadline for project completion. Members asked for further information about the delay before reaching a decision about the release of the remaining £9,233 grant monies.
16. The work was completed in June 2015 and under the terms of the building contract the club had a 12 month Defects Liability Period on the mechanical and electrical services. As part of the contract they were able to withhold 5% of the contract value until all defects had been successfully attended to.
17. Due to the occupation of the Nursery School it was difficult for the contractor to return to the Pavilion to complete the works and it was delayed until the 2016/17 Christmas holidays. The club contacted the Council to draw down the final payment when they received the Final Completion Certificate. They have apologised for the confusion and have asked that the grant is released in full as they need the funds to support the club.
18. Cuckfield Cricket Club has 220 Senior members and runs four Senior Saturday sides, an over 40s side and a social team known as 'The Taverners'. They also have 80 junior members aged 5-8 years and an 'All Stars' Academy for 100 children aged 9-18 years. The 1st Eleven plays in the Premier League of the Sussex Cricket league and they have Clubmark status.
19. The club has two adjacent pitches and the pavilion and grounds are used every day of the week, the facilities are used daily by a nursery school. Local clubs and societies can hire the Pavilion on a casual basis and they take part in village activities. The premises improvements were carried out in two phases and were funded through grants and their cricket club funds:

	Ph.1	Ph. 2	Totals
Lindfield CC	155,700	140,000	295,700
ECB	174,300		174,300
MSDC		30,000	30,000
Total	330,000	170,000	500,000

Other Options Considered

20. 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

21. 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 developments.

22. The Community & Economic Development fund currently stands as follows:

Scheme	Fund as at 6 April 2017	Additional funds approved	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£7,719	£220,000	£19,100	£208,619

23. Council agreed to increase the fund by £220,000 at a meeting on 1 March 2017.

24. The allocations and spent to date refers to the sum of £7,500 set aside to fund Silver Sunday events plus £11,600 allocated to the Micro Business Grants Fund to address the reduced level of funding received from West Sussex County Council.

25. If Members agree to the recommendations in Appendix B the balance will be reduced by £43,958 leaving a remainder of £164,661 in the Community & Economic Development fund reserve.

Risk Management Implications

26. 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.

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

28. 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.

29. 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. Grants of over £1,000 are released on receipt of evidence of expenditure.

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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 Performance and Partnerships Section.