

7. 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 twenty five Facility, Community & Economic Development 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:

Facility Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
East Grinstead Sports Club	Facility improvements	167,100	139,870
Total		£167,100	£139,870

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Age UK East Grinstead	Defibrillator	1,872	1,872
Ardingly Parish Council	Refurbishment of public conveniences	1,500	1,500
Burgess Hill Community Radio	Studio set up costs	4,996	4,996
Creatives Across Sussex	Willow Fest	4,900	4,900
Cuckfield Parish Council	Commemorative Sculptured Bench	3,000	3,000*
Disability Access	Advice on disability matters	1,000	1,000
East Grinstead Cricket Club	Upgrade cricket practise nets	4,000	4,000*
East Grinstead Town Council	Family events programme 2018	5,000	5,000
East Grinstead Town Council	WW1 Centenary events	2,000	2,000
Experience Mid Sussex	Joint marketing campaign	3,000	3,000
Fixers – Public Heath Broadcasting Trust	Youth and mental health project	4,972	4,972
Grace Eyre Foundation	Friendship Group for people with learning disabilities	5,000	5,000
Haywards Heath Cricket Club	Flat sheet pitch cover	840	840
Haywards Heath Town Council	South Road tree planters	10,000	5,000

Haywards Heath Town Council	Commemorative paving and civic event	4,900	4,900
Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club	Gym classes and equipment	4,900	1,900
Kingscote Valley Association	Weirwood Reservoir cycle path proposal	5,000	3,000
Mid Sussex Active	Girls Get Active	4,200	2,100
Nature Nurture Sussex	Community Forest School family sessions	3,415	2,068
Poynings Volunteers	Play equipment at Poynings Recreation Ground	2,500	2,500
Respect Youth Club	Weekly programme	900	900
Sign Health	Young Deaf Hope service	4,950	0
South of England Agricultural Show	Young Craftsman of the Year competition	1,500	1,500
SASBAH	Social activities for people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus	2,000	2,000
Total		£86,345	£67,948

*funded by s106 developer contributions

Recommendations

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 Appendices A and B; and

b) the recommendations made in Appendix D in relation to Facility Grants.

Background

1. This is the fifth meeting in the 2017/18 financial year, which considers Facility and Community & Economic Development Grant applications.
2. 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

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.

Facility Grants Update and End of Revenue Grants Report

7. The End of Revenue Grants Reports for Community & Economic Development Grants and a Facility Grants Update and are attached in Appendices C and D. The reports provide details of the outcomes relating to the Community & Economic Development Grants awards and the progress of capital projects funded through the Facility Grants scheme in 2016-17.

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 6 April 2017	Additional funds approved	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£7,719	£220,000	(£82,472)	£145,247

11. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £60,948, leaving a remainder of £84,299 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.