

8. 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 five Community & Economic Development applications for the Beacons of Light scheme 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 is as follows:

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Ardingly Parish Council	Build a Remembrance Beacon on the South of England Showground	£250	£250
Burgess Hill Town Council	Contribution towards 'A Nation's Tribute' event	£250	£250
Hassocks Parish Council	Contribution towards materials for a hand built bonfire on the South Downs and a bugler player	£250	£250
Lindfield Parish Council	Contribution towards purchasing a Remembrance Beacon	£250	£250
West Hoathly Parish Council	Remembrance event in partnership with The Royal British Legion	£250	£250

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*

Background

WWI Beacons of Light

1. In commemoration and remembrance of the end of World War 1 and the many millions who were killed or came home dreadfully wounded, 1000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 7pm on 11th November 2018 throughout the United Kingdom, Channel

Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. The Beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war.

2. The Chairman of the Cabinet Grants Panel has agreed to offer grants of £250 to each of the twenty-four Town and Parish Councils in the District to support them to take part in this national initiative. The sum of £6,000 has been ring-fenced from the community & Economic Development to fund this scheme.
3. Parish and Town councils were invited to bid for up to £250 towards lighting a beacon on Remembrance. The scheme encourages Parish and Town Councils to either purchase a beacon, light an existing one or light a manmade bonfire.

Assessment Process

4. All applications have met the basic criteria of the corporate grants scheme and the standard assessment process has been applied. The grant application form was simplified to reflect the small one-off grant offer and to recognise that organisations have been invited by the Council to bid for a specified project.

Financial Implications

5. Community & Economic Development Grants are funded through a dedicated budget. The current fund stands at:

Scheme	Fund as at 6 April 2018	Additional funds approved	Ringfenced funds for Beacons of Light	Spend to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£96,830	£0	£6,000	£49,281	£41,549

6. The spend to date includes the amount approved for CED grants at the Grants Panel meetings of 19 June and 31 July, including the Silver Sunday grants as well as grants awarded to the Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup agreed through a Cabinet Member report (MIS bulletin No. 16).
7. If Members agree to the recommendations, the remaining amount of funding set aside for the Beacons of Light scheme (of £4,750) will move into the total balance. This will leave a remainder of £46,299 in the Community & Economic Development Fund reserve.

Risk Management Implications

8. 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 organisation to carry out the services, activities or equipment purchase for which funding had been awarded.
9. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
10. 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

11. All successful applicants 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 evidence of expenditure.
12. 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

13. As part of the assessment process funding applicants will have complied with the required conditions of funding and have the requisite policies and procedures in place including any other relevant legislation.

Legal Implications

14. 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

15. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Community & Economic Development and Facility Grants are held in the Community Services, Policy and Performance Section.