

CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES
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Wards Affected: East Grinstead Herontye
Key Decision No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide some background regarding the East Grinstead Sports Club grant application to help the Cabinet Grants Panel consider the request to vary the project proposal. The applicant will make a presentation about the revised scheme and be available to answer questions from the Cabinet Grants Panel.

Recommendations

Members of the Panel are requested to consider and decide upon the applicants request to vary the details of the project to improve the facilities at the East Grinstead Sports Club.

Background

1. In March 2018, East Grinstead Sports Club (EGSC) was awarded three grants toward cricket pitch improvements (£16,870), car park expansion (£30,000) and facilities improvements (£97,000).
2. A formal agreement has been prepared by Legal for the facilities improvements grant but it is currently on hold as the sports club submitted a request to make some variations to the project
3. The initial grant was awarded to enable the sports club to improve the reception area, remodel gym changing area, bar and café refurbishment, create a social space for children and young people, improve heating and ventilation controls, upgrade the air conditioning, install LED lighting in the sports hall, replacement of external plant room doors, CCTV and extra security lighting.
4. Since the appointment of Wave Leisure, they have done some more work on forward planning and in agreement with the TLC (liaison committee which includes representatives from the cricket, badminton, football, hockey, squash and netball clubs), they have decided that it is more important for them to upgrade the gym with specialist sports specific training equipment, than to improve the changing area.
5. The revised proposal aims to increase gym revenue by growing membership to 1,000 members, the level it was at 4-5 years ago. The gym currently provides for general fitness training and they want to add to this by developing a unique 'sports training' offer which will appeal to the affiliated clubs based at EGSC and other sports clubs in Mid Sussex.
6. The introduction of special sports training equipment will meet the needs of current sports club members who do not use the gym. To further this they intend to recruit new sports training/coaching staff to ensure sports athletes are supported in the gym. The club is already a centre for sporting excellence and this specialist equipment will enhance the facility.
7. The cost comparison between the two schemes is shown in the table below:

	initial proposal	revised proposal
New gym equipment	-	40,249
Gym refurbishment	-	21,444
Gym changing rooms	35,000	-
Reception area improvements	10,000	10,000
Cafe and bar refurbishment	15,000	15,000
Children and young people facilities	10,000	10,000
Heating & ventilation controls	10,000	3,550
Air conditioning	10,000	7,203
Installing LED lighting	20,000	16,932
CCTV	2,595	-
External security lighting	600	-
External plant room doors	2,000	2,000
external gate to car park (est cost)	-	2,000
Total Project Cost	115,195	128,378
Match funding contribution	18,195	31,378

8. For background, Wave Leisure is a registered charity (no. 1113486) and in addition to managing nine leisure facilities they run a wide outreach programme which aims to increase participation by children and young people, those not normally active, socially excluded groups and older people (such as holiday programmes, wellbeing services, para games, outdoor activity sessions and healthy walks).

Financial Implications

9. The £97,000 grant is fully funded through Section 106 Formal Sport Contributions. The revised proposal does not require any increase in Council funding. The overall project cost is higher so the Wave Leisure will be required to increase their match funding commitment to deliver the scheme.

Risk Management Implications

10. 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.
11. A legally binding Grant Agreement will be prepared which 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.
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 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

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

- Grant applications and associated documentation for Facility Grants are held in the Community Services, Policy and Performance Section.