

CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

(Community and Economic Development Grants)

REPORT OF: HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

Contact Officer: Emma Sheridan; Business Unit Leader Community Services, Policy and Performance

Email emma.sheridan@midsussex.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Cabinet Grants Panel eight Community Grant applications for consideration. The report also provides details of the one-off Platinum Jubilee grants scheme as approved by Cabinet Member decision.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Cabinet Grants Panel are requested to consider and decide upon:
 - ***The recommendation for each of the applications detailed, summaries of which are attached in Appendix A***
 - ***Acknowledge the Platinum Jubilee Grants scheme agreed by Cabinet Member decision***

Summary

3. A summary of the applications to be considered and the recommendations from the Community Grants Assessment Group are provided as to the level of financial assistance that should be awarded to each organisation. These are detailed in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Background

4. Applications for all grants and the Release of S106 contributions are assessed against a standard checklist and considered by the officer Grants Assessment Group to ensure a consistent approach to the awarding of funds.

Assessment Process

5. Applications are assessed against four key criteria – Council priorities, evidence of need, fiscal impact, and benefits. The maximum possible score, for excellent applications which fully meet all the criteria, is 12.
6. Applications are assessed 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.
7. 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.

Table 1: Applications recommended for award

Organisation	Grant Purpose	Award Requested	Award Suggested
Citizens Advice in West Sussex (North, South, East)	To set up language café sessions for diverse communities	£4,984	£4,984
Hassocks & Hurst Little Bees	Venue hire to extend sports activities for 2–4-year-olds	£500	£500
IMPACT Foundation	Support 30 families in need with individual and group cooking sessions	£2,545	£2,545
	TOTAL	£8,029	£8,029

Table 2: Applications Considered but NO GRANT Award Recommended

Organisation	Purpose for which grant is sought	Award requested
Disability Access East Grinstead	Costs towards Mobility Equipment loan service and taxi costs for the Visually Impaired Readers Group	£700
E Jeavans Associates Ltd	STEM activities for children during and after the Playdays on Tour	£2,965
Handcross Rosemary Club	AGM refreshment costs and Christmas outing	£2,000
Sussex Green Living	Sustainability based activities for children during and after the Playdays on Tour	£4,636
TS Resolution NTC	Sports equipment	£5,000
	TOTAL	£15,301

8. All organisations presented have met the current basic level grant criteria, i.e., they are fully constituted voluntary and not for profit organisations and have provided the relevant information to support their application.

Grant Applications Recommended for approval under the Community Fund

9. Citizens Advice have been delivering the BAME Community Champions project over the last year and as part of this they are looking to set up language cafes for diverse communities. This will be in partnership with Aspire and will be led and shaped by the champions. The Assessment team agreed that the funding bid will enable further meaningful engagement with existing champions and widen engagement with other residents from diverse communities in Mid Sussex. The Assessment team agreed that the project should be fully funded.
10. Hassocks & Hurst Little Bees provide free football sessions to children aged 2-4 years to socialise, learn new skills and try new sports. The group is looking to expand its offer of activities and run parent and child first aid CPR classes. They are looking to fund a new venue to hold these expanded sessions over the next year. The Assessment team agreed that the bid offered increased opportunities for young children to experience sport and parents would also benefit from the social interaction this would bring. The Assessment team agreed that the project should be fully funded.
11. IMPACT Foundation run a successful programme to promote healthy eating through their Tasty Team. They help disadvantaged and vulnerable families to access and cook healthy meals on a budget. The group are seeking funds to support 30 families who have been previously homeless, living in a hostel for young mums or suffering from social isolation during the pandemic. The group are well connected with key partners working with this client group and they will be encouraged to work closely with the MSDC housing team who are supportive of the bid. The Assessment Team agreed that the project should be fully funded.

Grant Applications not recommended for approval under the Community Fund

12. Disability Access East Grinstead have been previously funded for core costs but were notified in their last application response that they would no longer be funded for core costs. The current application is seeking costs to support their free mobility equipment loan service and taxi costs for those attending the Visually Impaired Readers group held in the library. These projects are not new initiatives, and the criteria excludes bids seeking funds towards ongoing costs for existing projects. A free mobility equipment loan service is also provided by WSCC. The Assessment team suggests that the group make contact with Community Transport to assist with the travel. The Assessment team recommend that the project is not funded from this grant fund.
13. The applications from E Jeavans Associates and Sussex Green Living are to fund activities during the 'Playdays on Tour' events in the summer holidays. The activities will focus on STEM and sustainability respectively and the groups aim to build on the engagement during the Playdays on Tour to deliver further activities once the scheme ends. Although the activities would benefit and add to the value of the Playdays on Tour, the bids are seeking to fund existing services and as such fall outside the criteria for the Community Grants scheme. However, officers will explore other alternative sources of funding for these bids.

14. Handcross Rosemary Club are a friendship club for older people in Handcross and the surrounding villages. They are seeking funds to go towards refreshments at their AGM and Christmas lunch. The bid is for existing activities and therefore fall outside of the criteria. It is recommended not to be funded from this grant fund.
15. TS Resolution NTC is a uniformed youth organisation based in East Grinstead. The group are seeking funds to contribute to their recent kayak purchases and Palm Equipment Buoyancy Aids and Cags. The kayaks have already been purchased and the criteria does not allow retrospective bids. The bid failed demonstrate how the funds would support a new activity and how it would benefit the wider community. The group charge a subscription fee and there was no indication of how their services would be accessible for young people who could not pay the £20per month membership fee. The Assessment team agreed that the bid should not be funded from this grant fund.

Platinum Jubilee Grants Scheme

16. Her Majesty, The Queen, is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee with seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 at 25 years old.
17. This year, 2022, will see year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities and people come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign. Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June.
18. An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. Across the four days the celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflections on The Queen's 70 years of service.
19. As part of the Councils participation in the Jubilee celebrations, a specific grant fund has been established, from within the Councils Community Grant Programme, to facilitate and enable community celebrations across the district which was agreed by Cabinet Member Decision on 25 January 2022.
20. The amount of £25,000 has been set aside, from within the Community Grants Programme budget for 2022, to provide a dedicated fund for community groups to apply on a one-off basis to run events that celebrate and mark the Platinum Jubilee in Mid Sussex.
21. The fund is available to non-profit making community/voluntary organisations to help with the costs of appropriate related activities primarily on or around The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend and that applications will be required to demonstrate appropriate community benefit and/or community input.
22. More detailed information on the scheme can be found in Appendix C.

Other Options Considered:

23. To not fund the applications recommended in this report:

The awards recognise the key role CVS organisations play in enabling communities to be resilient and the monies 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. The impact of COVID19 on the sector has been unprecedented in terms of demand, coupled with loss of income and resources to meet these increased demands. The continued use of this fund to support community initiatives will help to mitigate against some of the challenges faced by the sector in these extraordinary times.

Financial Implications

24. Community Development Grants are funded through a dedicated reserve. The balance held in the Community Development Fund Reserve as of 1 April 2021 was £407,911 which included a £100,000 contribution from General Reserve at Outturn 2020/21. The amount spent in 2021/22 (as of 7 February 2022) was £154,953, which leaves a balance remaining of £252,958.
25. The amounts committed, but not yet paid, as of 7 February 2022 are £164,368. This leaves a balance of £88,590 if all the committed grants are paid.
26. The total amount of the Community Development Grants proposed in this Cabinet Grants Panel report is £8,029, which leaves a remaining balance of £80,561 if all the committed grants are paid. A further £25,000 has been allocated for the Platinum Jubilee Fund leaving £55,561 unallocated.

Risk Management Implications

27. 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.
28. Where applications reference physical works to properties, applicants will be required to ensure that the project has all the necessary permissions in place (including planning, building regulations, licensing and from landlords) prior to completion.
29. 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 funds are awarded not materialise.
30. All organisations in receipt of grant funds 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.
31. 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

32. As part of the assessment process all 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.

Sustainability Implications

33. The provision of the Community Grants Programme supports the council's community leadership role in the delivery of local and [UK sustainable development goals](#). Specifically, this service contributes towards:



SDG 3: (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) &



SDG 10: (Reduce inequality within and among countries)



SDG 11: (Sustainable Cities and Communities)

Legal Implications

34. 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

35. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Community & Economic Development grants are held in the Community Services, Policy and Performance Business Unit.