

CORPORATE GRANT SCHEMES

(Community Grants)

REPORT OF: Head of Communications, PR and Community Engagement

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Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Cabinet Grants Panel six Community Grant applications for consideration.

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***

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
4Sight Vision Support	Newsletters in accessible format (large print, email, audio USB/CD or Braille) to be distributed across Mid Sussex.	£1,716.22	£1,716.22
Carers Support West Sussex	Project to identify and engage with male carers in Mid Sussex.	£5,000	£9,500
Family Support Work	Set up informal, drop-in group for isolated parents and carers of children at the Bentswood Hub.	£820	£820
	TOTAL	£7,536.22	£12,036.22

Table 2: Applications Considered but NO GRANT Award Recommended

Organisation	Purpose for which grant is sought	Award requested
Group B Strep Support	Set up local campaign around raising awareness of Group B Strep Support in Mid Sussex.	£4,500
Kangaroos Mid Sussex	Fund Staff costs and activities for existing PALS Saturday Club	£5,000
The Daisy Chain Project	Redecorate office in Worthing.	£500
	TOTAL	£10,000

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. 4Sight Vision provides specialist support for blind and sight impaired people with a variety of one-to-one support. The group piloted the distribution of newsletters during Covid and under lockdown when face to face meetings were restricted. This proved very successful and enabled them to raise awareness of key issues in accessible formats. The group is seeking funds to deliver this project in 2022/23 with 6 newsletters for approximately 319 clients over 12 months costing just over £1,700. The Assessment Team recognise the importance of accessible information and the pilot project findings demonstrated the impact the newsletters have had to combat social isolation and loneliness. The Assessment Team agreed that the project should be fully funded from this grant fund. It also agreed that 4Sight Vision should ensure that they are able to fund the project post 2023 as it will not qualify for repeat funding from this grant scheme.
10. Carers Support West Sussex supports family and friend carers in West Sussex. They provide support groups, a Carers Response Line, access to equipment, counselling and wellbeing support. The group are seeking funds to set up a project to identify and engage with male carers in Mid Sussex, including a calendar of events to encourage engagement and peer support. The commissioning of Older People's Activities identified men as a priority group who are currently underrepresented in services. This project targets male carers who can become socially isolated; a factor which has become even more significant following Covid and the subsequent care needs and bereavements that it has resulted in. The Assessment Team feel this project presents an opportunity to support and enhance the Council's Older People's Activities contract and can potentially have a powerful impact on the lives of male carers. The Assessment team agreed that the project should be funded for the full delivery cost of £9,500 (the group have only requested £5,000) as it is closely aligned with Council priorities and will help to ensure that the project can go ahead.
11. Family Support Work (FSW) work in areas of high deprivation in partnership with local schools, social care and other organisations to provide holistic, practical and emotional support through intensive home-visits and group support work. The group have 20 Practitioners (qualified social workers) and 211 volunteers. FSW are seeking funds to set up an informal, drop-in group for isolated parents and carers at the Bentswood Hub for 12 months. They will be working in partnership with the charity Hope. The Assessment Team feels this project will offer parents/carers who are socially isolated an opportunity to deal with the challenges they are facing and provide a supportive environment enabling them to build confidence and self-esteem. The charity Hope has been funded by the Community Grants scheme for a similar project and they will be contributing to the costs of this project. The partnership working is very encouraging enabling both organisations to share their skills and use their contacts to reach out to vulnerable and hard to reach parents/carers. The Assessment Team agreed that the project should be fully funded from this grant fund.

Grant Applications not recommended for approval under the Community Fund

12. Group B Strep Support is a national charity that seeks to eradicate Group B Strep infection in babies. The group are looking to fund a local campaign to raise awareness of GPS in Mid Sussex. The project will work with NHS partners and will provide support to health professionals and undertake a marketing campaign for residents. The Assessment Team felt that the project is better suited to alternative funding including NHS funding streams. The bid should also be referred to the Mid Sussex Partnership Health Subgroup who work

towards raising awareness of health issues and inequalities. The Assessment team recommend that the project is not funded from this grant fund.

13. Kangaroos Mid Sussex provide activities for children and young adults who have learning disabilities and additional difficulties. The group are seeking to fund an existing service to continue in the same format. The criteria excludes projects that have started and funding general day-to-day running costs. Kangaroos are currently being supported by the Chairman who has named them as her chosen charity. They are also currently in receipt of other significant fundraisers. The Assessment team recommend that the project is not funded from this grant fund.
14. The Daisy Chain Project is a charity based in Worthing with the aim of tackling domestic abuse. They provide pro bono legal advice to victims of domestic abuse and most of their clients are based in Crawley, Horsham and surrounding areas. The group are seeking funds to renovate their premises in Worthing. The bid falls outside the criteria in which the majority of beneficiaries should be Mid Sussex residents. The Assessment Team recommend that the project is not funded from this grant fund.

Other Options Considered:

15. 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

16. Community Development Grants are funded through a dedicated reserve. The balance held in the Community Development Fund Reserve as of 1 April 2022 was £228,993. The amount spent in 2022/23 (as of 5 October 2022) was £67,130, which leaves a balance remaining of £161,863.
17. The amounts committed, but not yet paid, as of 5 October 2022 are £108,540. This leaves a balance of £53,323 if all the committed grants are paid.
18. The total amount of the Community Development Grants proposed in this Cabinet Grants Panel report is £12,036, which leaves a remaining balance of £41,287 if all the committed grants are paid.
19. Grant applications that have been recommended have had all accounts/financial data assessed by finance with all due diligence undertaken.

Risk Management Implications

20. 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.

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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

25. 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

26. The provision of the Community Grants Programme supports the council's corporate priorities, specifically Strong and Resilient Communities and Effective and Responsive Services. The grants also support the council's community leadership role in the delivery of local and [UK sustainable development goals](#) contributing towards:



SDG

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



SDG 10: (Reduce inequality within and among countries)



SG11(Sustainable Cities and Communities)

Legal Implications

27. 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

28. Grant applications and associated documentation for the Community & Economic Development grants are held in the Communications, PR and Community Engagement.