

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 one Facility (Release of S106) and five Community & Economic Development applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel. The report also provides an update on the St Francis Sports and Social Club CIC project and asks for Member approval for a revised scheme.

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 (Release of S106)

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Total Project Cost	Award Suggested
Slaugham Parish Council	Pavilion and playground refurbishment	£212,000	£175,000
		£212,000	£175,000

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Total Project Cost	Award Suggested
Haywards Heath Town Council	Town Day	£5,240	£1,120
Lindfield Arts Festival	Arts activities	£20,400	£1,580
AGE UK East Grinstead	Move to Glen Vue	£24,220	£21,770*
Sheddingdean Community Centre	Rental costs	£5,000	£5,000
Windmills Opportunity Playgroup	Rental costs	£850	£850
Total		£55,710	£30,320

*includes £12,410 Facility Grant (Release of S106)

Recommendations

3. *Members of the Panel are requested to consider and decide upon:*
 - i. *the recommendations for each of the above applications, summaries of which are attached in Appendices A and B;*

- ii. the recommendation to allow the St Francis Social and Sports Club CIC to use the grant awarded to the project to fund a revised scheme (see para 16)***

Background

4. 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

5. Applications are assessed against four key criteria – Council priorities, evidence of need, finances and impact and benefits. The maximum possible score for excellent applications which fully meet all the criteria is 12.
6. The applications received in this grants round have been considered by the Grants Assessment Group comprising relevant officers from across the authority together with representatives from West Sussex County Council's Partnerships and Communities Team and, unless there is a conflict of interest, the local Council for Voluntary Service.
7. The merit of each application is judged against the agreed criteria and a level of funding is 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.
8. 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.

Other Options Considered

9. 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.

St Francis Social & Sports Club CIC

10. On 14 February 2017, the Cabinet Grants Panel agreed to award the St Francis Social and Sports Club CIC a grant of £1,120,000 toward the construction of a new community hall and sports changing facilities at the St Francis Sports Ground in Haywards Heath. The site is owned by the St Francis Sports and Social Club and £824,000 of the S106 funds allocated toward this scheme are intended to provide a replacement for the Norman Hay Hall at this site.
11. The project has planning approval (ref: DM/17/0852) and the estimated cost was £1,650,000 to be delivered in two phases:
- £1,270,000 - Phase 1 for the design and construction of the Ground Floor including a large community hall, two meeting rooms, small history centre, toilets, kitchen, café area and upgraded swimming pool changing rooms, the shell of the Lower Ground Floor (this needs to be structurally complete but will be unfitted), associated landscaping and car park
 - £380,000 - Phase 2 is for the completion of the Lower Ground Floor comprising a small hall/meeting room and junior changing facilities.

12. In October 2017, the CIC received tenders from three building contractors which indicated that the building costs had increased by £540,755 for Phase 1. The CIC appointed a contractor and intended to raise the additional funds through loan agreements but the trustees have become concerned about the financial risks of such a large debt. As a consequence they have proposed a reduced scheme which can be delivered within the budget available.
13. The revised scheme is for construction of a new community hall on the land between the existing swimming pool and the bowls club, which was previously used for tennis. Concept design drawings have been presented by their architect that show a main hall with stage, foyer/café area, museum space, two meeting rooms, swimming pool, kitchen, storage, toilets and 36 parking spaces (including 4 disabled).
14. Based on figures provided by the architect, this scheme is estimated to cost £1.5m (exc. VAT) which includes £220,320 for the changing rooms and work to divert the foul drains running close to the site; £1,129,960 for the new building and link based on £2120 per m2 for a floor area of 533m2; £85,000 for Services to provide a new electricity connection and upgrade to the existing water and gas connections; £64,720 fees and contingencies.
15. If Members agree to fund the revised scheme, the architect will arrange a pre-application Planning meeting to ensure the proposals are acceptable and will submit revised reports and scheme drawings for approval with a view to starting work on site in Summer 2019, using the previously appointed contractor, subject to planning approval. The building contractor will need to examine the revised proposal to confirm the estimated costs are correct.
16. Members are recommended to allow the St Francis Social and Sports Club CIC to use the Facility Grant awarded toward the cost of a new community building at this site to fund the revised scheme, subject to the terms of the existing grant agreement (signed 30 October 2017) and the following special conditions:
 - copy of planning approval for the revised scheme to be submitted
 - submission of evidence that the project can be fully funded prior to commencement on site
 - the project must be completed by December 2021

Financial Implications

17. 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.
18. Community & Economic Development Grants are funded through a dedicated budget. The balance held in the Community and Economic Development Reserve as at 1.4.18 was £200,662.20. The amount spent in 2018/19 was £132,400.80. Balance remaining in the reserve is £68,261.40.
19. The amounts committed but not paid as at 1.4.19 are £73,756.93 which creates a small overspend of £5,495.53 for the financial year if all the committed grants are paid.

20. Funds are allocated to the Community and Economic Development Reserve at outturn. Reserve and the budget for 2019/20 will be confirmed at Cabinet in June 2019.

Risk Management Implications

21. 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.
22. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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

26. 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

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 and Facility Grants are held in the Community Services, Policy and Performance Section.