

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 eleven Facility, Community & Economic Development applications for consideration by the Cabinet Grants Panel. The report also provides an update on an existing grant awarded to Slaugham Parish Council.

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

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
East Grinstead Rugby Football Club	Improvements to club facilities	102,840	50,000
Total		£ 102,840	£50,000

Community and Economic Development Grants

Organisation	Purpose for which award is sought	Award Requested	Award Suggested
East Grinstead Museum	Villages at War Project	2,900	2,320
Family Support Work	Drop in Sessions supporting vulnerable families	1,728	1,728
Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle Network	Hand washing facility	467	467
Haywards Heath Town team	Mid Sussex STEM Challenge	3,500	3,500
High Street Traders Association	The Big Reveal 2018	4,921	0
Kangaroos	Holiday club for children/young people with learning disabilities	5,000	5,000
Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Bolney	Installation of a hand rail	6,405	5,000
Revitalise Respite Holidays	Respite holiday breaks for disabled people	3,540	3,540
Stone Quarry Crew	Youth engagement workshops	5,000	5,000
Summerhaven	Drop in facility for adults with mental health problems	500	500
Total		£33,961	£27,055

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 increase the existing grant awarded to Slaugham Parish Council by £54,603, to £721,046 in total (see para 10-13)**

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, an officer from the relevant Town Council where appropriate 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.

Slaugham Parish Council

10. Slaugham Parish Council was initially awarded a Facility Grant of £472,842 in March 2016 toward the construction cost of a new community building and sports pavilion at Finches Field, Pease Pottage. The Council subsequently received S106 contributions in respect of the development at the Former Driving Range in Pease Pottage and in February 2017 a further £143,593 (PL12-00635 Community Buildings and Formal Sport) allocated to the project.
11. As this is a public recreation ground, the Council had set aside £50,000 in the major capital renewals budget to resurface the car park and in May 2017 the Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth agreed to include his money within the grant sum to enable the Parish Council to carry out this work as part of the construction project. This brought the total amount of the grant up to £666,443.

12. Slaugham Parish Council received tenders for the work and selected a contractor who priced the project at £708,000 in total. However, it appears that this did not include the hard landscaping and car parking around the building. A revised cost report provided by the architect now estimates the total cost at £845,339 so there is a budget shortfall which will need to be met by the Parish Council.
13. The Council received £54,603 in Local Community Infrastructure S106 contributions from the Former Driving Range development. Car parking is an appropriate use of these S06 funds and it is recommended that they are also allocated to this project to assist with these additional costs. It is essential that these works are completed as it is a planning condition that the building cannot be 'occupied until car parking spaces have been constructed' (Ref: DM/17/0412). Due to the pooling restrictions, this is the only additional S106 funding available to support this project

Financial Implications

14. 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.
15. 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	Allocated and spent to date	Balance
Community & Economic Development	£96,830	£0	(£50,781)	£46,049

16. The allocated to date figure includes the amount approved for CED grants at the Grants Panel Meetings of 19 June, 31 July and 16 August , which includes the Silver Sunday and Beacons of Light initiatives, plus grants awarded to the Sheddingdean Community Association and Windmills Opportunity Playgroup agreed through a Cabinet Member report (MIS bulletin No. 16).
17. If Members agree to the recommendations the balance will be reduced by £27,055, leaving a remainder of £18,994 in the Community & Economic Development Fund reserve.

Risk Management Implications

18. 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.
19. Additionally, the sharing of information with West Sussex County Council and the Town Councils will ensure that organisations are not being double-funded for the same purpose.
20. 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.

21. 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.
22. 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

23. 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

24. 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

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