

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 seven Community & Economic Development 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 on the level of financial assistance that should be awarded to each organisation are detailed in Tables 1 and 2 below:

Table 1: Applications recommended for award

| Organisation | Grant Purpose | Award Requested | Award Suggested |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Disability Access East Grinstead | Continue to provide advice to people and their carers on disability access, advice to providers of goods and services and input into planning applications. | £1,000 | £1,000 |
| Hurstpierpoint Allotment Association | Standpipes for allotments | £1,375 | £1,375 |
| | TOTAL | £2,375 | £2,375 |

Table 2: Applications Considered but NO GRANT Award Recommended

| Organisation | Purpose for which grant is sought | Award requested |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Borde Hill Garden for Experience Mid Sussex | Experience Mid Sussex branded summer event 2021 and post pandemic gratitude picnic | £1,300 |
| Albion in the Community | Part fund Premier League Kicks project in Burgess Hill and Oathall | £4,999 (deferred) |
| Mid Sussex Active | Sports Leader training in schools | £4,260 |
| Hurst Festival | Hurst Festival Music Club | £4,513 |
| Hurst Festival | Contribution towards the free 'Community Day' of Hurst Festival | £5,000 |
| | TOTAL | £20,072 |

Background

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

Assessment Process

- Applications are assessed against four key criteria – Council priorities, evidence of need, financial impact and benefits. The maximum possible score, for excellent applications which fully meet all the criteria, is 12.
- 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.
- 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.
- All organisations presented have met the basic current criteria and specific grant criteria, i.e. they are fully constituted voluntary and not for profit organisations and have provided the relevant information to support their application.

Grants Recommended for approval under the Community & Economic Development Fund

- Disability Access EG have been funded through this scheme for a number of years. Whilst the Assessment Team recognise the value and the uniqueness of the services provided by this group, the criteria clearly states that groups cannot be funded for annual running costs. It is however recognised that this past year has been exceptional as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and that many organisations in the Community and Voluntary sector has faced unprecedented challenges and an inability to raise funds through other channels. It is therefore recommended that funding be granted to the group this year but with notice that they may not be funded, through this particular grant programme, for the same activities in future funding rounds. The services provided by this group will, however, be considered in the wider review of Council held Service Level Agreements and officers

from the Community Development team will provide support to the group in identifying a more sustainable long term funding plan.

10. Hurstpierpoint Allotment Association are seeking funds to install standpipes to improve accessibility to the allotments where people struggle to carry watering cans from existing taps. The grant will enable the group to open the allotments to more users. There is currently no available S106 allocations which could fund these works.

Grants not recommended for approval under the Community & Economic Development Fund

11. An application received from Borde Hill has been referred to the Economic Development Team as the group is comprised of commercial businesses and seeks to promote tourism in the District.
12. The application from the Albion in the Community to undertake youth sessions as part of the Premier League Kicks has been deferred to the next round in May. The sessions cannot be held at the current time due to Covid restrictions but should be considered later in the year if Covid19 restrictions permit.
13. The application submitted by Mid Sussex Active for Sports Leader Training in schools cannot be recommended for funding given the criteria specification that projects will not be funded where there is a more appropriate funder; in this case funding for such schemes would be expected to be resourced from the Local Education Authority and/or local Schools Sports Partnership.
14. The two applications from Hurst Festival cannot be recommended for funding under the grant criteria as they are for a previously funded annual event and a Music Club also funded in a previous grant round that does not meet the requirements for longer term sustainability.

Other Options Considered:

15. To not fund the applications outlined 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 at 1 April 2020 was £100,586 which included a £50,000 contribution from General Reserve at Outturn 2019/20. The amount spent in 2020/21 (as at 23 February 2021) was £24,277, which leaves a balance remaining of £76,309.
17. The amounts committed, but not as yet paid, as at 23 February 2021 are £37,401. This leaves a balance of £38,908 if all the committed grants are paid.

18. The total amount of the Community & Economic Development Grant proposed in this Cabinet Grants Panel report is £2,375, which leaves a remaining balance of £36,533 if all the committed grants are paid.

Risk Management Implications

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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

24. 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

25. 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

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