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Record of Decision: Adur Competitive Community Grants Budget 2011/12
Decision taken by: Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing
Declaration of Prejudicial Interests: None
Declaration of Personal Interests: None
<p>Decision:</p> <p>CW2011/0010 The Storm Basketball Club This project was seen as providing services for young people in an area where there is considerable deprivation. It has engaged a number of volunteers and runs a subsidy scheme for young people who face financial hardship.</p> <p>Award - £4,100</p> <p>CW2011/0002 Electric Storm Youth While initially this application was not supported, the Cabinet Member has since had a discussion with West Sussex Youth Services, who are passing management of part of the Freshfield site to Electric Storm (ES) on a peppercorn rent, to provide additional youth facilities in the Lancing area. This forms part of the overall approach to the needs of local young people, and the County Youth Service will be working with ES to help them develop their youth work skills, develop clear safeguarding policies and implementation, and a close partnership with them as they move forward. As a consequence, the Cabinet Member has reviewed the initial decision and have agreed that the award should be made. A condition which he wishes to be included is that ES link with the Adur health and well-being hub to ensure the health needs of young people are included in their work programme. The West Sussex Youth Service will be maintaining its presence in Lancing and Sompting over and above work being undertaken with ES.</p> <p>Award - £5,000</p> <p>CW2011/0011 Growing Artists This project seeks to provide services for young people as well as older more isolated people, but it was not clear what links there were with other community groups and how they were engaging effectively to widen the community involvement. This award was therefore deferred to allow Councillors to make further enquiries with the organisation, and they will report back to the cabinet member with their findings once that meeting has taken place.</p>

The Cabinet member stood outside of this consideration due to having had previous contact with this body, although he considered his interest to be personal and not prejudicial.

Award Pending

CW2011/00016 Action on Elder Abuse (Lancing Group)

This project was seen as an essential service to disadvantaged older people suffering from forms of abuse. As an organisation that has three years of core funding from Health, it was agreed to this application, which will support the development of the infrastructure and number of volunteers should receive a positive response.

Award £3,000

CW2011/0005 Adur Special Needs Project

This project, although funded previously, provides essential respite care for families with disabled children through respite breaks at weekends and in the school holidays. Although taking children from a wider area than Adur, many local children take advantage of its services. It also uses many community volunteers in service delivery, strengthening volunteering in the district.

Award £5,000

CW2011/0014 Friends of Shoreham Beach

As a voluntary body who looks after the foreshore with many volunteers, this small application was to support World Oceans Day in an exhibition being held in the district which will increase footfall into the town as well as draw attention to key environmental issues.

Award £320

CW2011/0013 Cruse

Seen as a service for people experiencing loss and at a particular time when support and counselling is needed, it was agreed that this application deserved a positive response. However, a few observations need to be made.

- Adur District Council funds should be ring-fenced to provide key services to Adur people
- There should be a link made to the new Health and Well-Being Hub
- Consideration should be given to making this organisation a regularly funded body subject to an annual review rather than go through the same process year on year as it provides an essential service to people of Adur District

Award £2,718

CW2011/0008 Old Fort

While the application had some merit, it was complicated by a lack of apparent co-ordination and cooperation with work being undertaken by 'The Friends of Shoreham Fort' who already have support from English Heritage, Shoreham Port and Adur Council. This was despite requests to do so from officers as directed by the Cabinet Member.

Particular concern was also that the web-site for Old Fort continues to show the project as focussing on the old Coastguard building and developing it into an Arts Centre, a building which has been condemned and will be demolished in the near future. As a consequence, it was felt that the activities of the two organisations, who to the public eye would seem to be focussing on the same issue (namely that of the Old Fort), would not be understood. In this instance the applicant is clearly not involved in the promotion, care and events in relation to the restoration of the Old Fort itself which would add to the confusion. There is also a substantial risk of duplication if the two organisations continue to tread their respective paths.

Not Awarded

CW2011/0001 Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

This is a voluntary sector organisation that provides services to people who suffer with specific and life limiting illnesses and conditions. It was noted that these funds, if awarded would be used for the benefit of people in the Adur District, some of whom have had their support services withdrawn following recent re-organisation at the County Council as a consequence of national policy. A further strength of this organisation was also the support it provides to assist suffers to get back into the work place as well as a comprehensive advisory service.

It is also proposed that this organisation should link closely with our Health and Well-Being Hub.

Award £3,000

CW2011/0004 Southlanders

This organisation is situated in one of the most deprived areas of the Adur District, and has been pro-active in developing a range of community initiatives over many years, largely funded by grants from the Council and elsewhere. The Community Garden/allotment is well founded, and has raised beds for disabled people to access, as well as educational opportunities for a community where there is considerable disadvantage. This request, while reasonable, would seem to be on the excessive side, bearing in mind what is proposed, therefore, while an award will be made, funding will only be released once estimates have been presented and the true cost of the installation is known. It is recognised that the proposed greenhouse should be accessible for people with disability and in wheelchairs which might affect the cost.

Award Up to £3,165

CW2011/0012 Company Paradiso

In considering this application, it is clear that the whole project revolves around an issue of public health and the need to engage professionals as part of the solution to the issues being identified and addressed. In this instance it is felt that this request would be better considered by the National Health Service, or Public Health Commissioning body through the Community Health and Well-Being Board at West Sussex County Council and is out of the remit of Adur District Council. For this reason, the project has not been supported. Similarly, there was insufficient information about outcomes and how they would be measured, and how details about individuals would be protected.

Not Awarded

CW2011/0009 International Neighbours

This is the second year that an application has been received from IN. While it is acknowledged that the organisation does fulfil an important role on behalf of the community of Adur, it is felt that more income can and should be generated by reviewing the charges made for participants at the event. That being said, to support it is making a public statement about the way in which Adur Council supports totally the needs of the whole community, whatever their race, colour or creed. It also increases footfall in the town during the event and unique support with cultural performances during the Adur Festival. However, as the organisation continues to develop, it would be helpful for them to consider drawing up a business plan to assist in the sustainability of future years.

Award £1,093

CW2011/0007 Camelia Botnar

In this case, the application form was not fully completed, and it would seem to be a request for funds to refurbish their base rather than to deliver their services to the people of Adur. For this reason, the application was not supported.

Not Awarded

CW2011/0003 Homestart

While this is a well-founded organisation, it is clear that considerable funds provided by the National Lottery are held by them to support their seven staff for the next three years, added to which, regular funding is also made available from other sources. As volunteers deliver the services, the number of permanent staff in today's environment was questioned, and it was felt that at this time the application should not be supported.

Not Awarded

Friday Night Football

Friday Night Football has been running for some years, having been developed in partnership with the community, Impulse Leisure, Sussex Police and Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club. The main objective was to reduce anti-social behaviour in the Lancing and Sompting area, and the project is seen as having been successful in this role and was providing a diversionary activity for up to 70 young people on each evening.

Due to the end of funding, which had been forthcoming from a variety of sources, the project closed at the end of 2011, leaving a large number of young people without an opportunity for healthy activity and raising the possibility of the next generation of young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, prevention of which is one of the core priorities of the Adur and Worthing Safer Community Partnership.

The Health and Well-Being Team have obtained external funding for 16 weeks of a revamped Friday Night Soccer League, and it was considered by the Cabinet Member that a grant from residual funds should be made to extend the sustainability of the programme. As a small charge is made from all participants, a grant of £5,000 from the Adur grants fund would give the programme sustainability for around 2 years, which is

viewed as an important factor in dealing positively with disengaged young people in Lancing and Sompting with key benefits in both health and community benefits.

Award - £5,000

Name	Award	Balance £
Commencing Balance		82,460
The Storm	4,100	
Action on Elder Abuse	3,000	
Electric Storm	5,000	
Adur Special Needs Project	5,000	
Friends of Shoreham Beach	320	
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	2,718	
Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus	3,000	
Southlanders	3,165	
International Neighbours	1,093	
Friday night football	5,000	32,396
Balance		50,064

Further consideration is being given to a one off grant to Central and South Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau, to be ring-fenced for Adur residents, to ensure the continuity of services across the Adur district at a time of considerable difficulty. This offer will be subject to a report from the advisors to the Cabinet Member who will be attending a presentation by the C.A.B. on 22nd February 2012, and agreement as to the benefits which will accrue to the community of Adur.

Also, consideration is also being given to support for Adur Voluntary Action (AVA) who work with community based organisations, and who are currently developing a customer facing facility in North Road, Lancing to develop volunteering. Further discussions will be held with them as to appropriate projects/services that will support the local community and assist in growing community capacity. Currently some aspects of their work are under threat due to funding issues, and the Cabinet Member is concerned that essential work and links with other voluntary sector bodies able to provide key community services may be lost.

Both these grants from residual funds will be considered at the end of February, once further enquiries have been made. Further consideration in consultation with officers will be also be given at that time to any other key projects that support the achievement of Adur Council's core objectives.

Key Decision: No

Reasons for the Decision: To provide effective support to vulnerable people in out community, diversionary activities for young people, and to assist in achieving the core objectives of Adur District Council.

Alternative Options Considered: All grants were considered against the published criteria, so no alternative options were considered.

Other Matters Considered:

Legal Advice and Issues	x	Financial Advice and Issues	x
Sustainability Issues	x	Equality Issues	x
Community Safety Issues	x	Human Rights Issues	x
Reputation	x	Risk Assessment	x
Health & Safety Issues	x		

Consultation: Consultation was undertaken with three other Councillors, Cllrs Debbie Kennard, Liza McKinney and Peter Metcalfe.

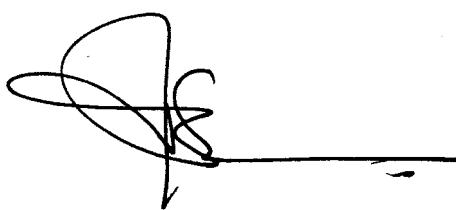
Background Papers: Report by the Executive Head of Planning, Regeneration & Wellbeing dated 23rd January 2012

Lead Officer:

Anne Jones
Voluntary Sector Support Officer
Civic Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6PR
01273 263175
Anne.jones@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Call-in: The call in deadline for this decision will be Tuesday 28 February 2012.

Signed:



Name: Councillor David Simmons

Date: 20 February 2012

Decision Ref No: HAW-019-11-12