



ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing
11 September 2017

Decision to be taken on or after
19 September 2017

Ward: Various
Key Decision: ~~Yes~~ / No

Adur Community Grants - Allocation of Funds for round one 2017/18

Report by the Director for Communities

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report requests the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing to consider the allocation of the 2017/18 Adur Community Grants budget.
- 1.2 This report addresses the first round, the deadline was the 23rd July 2017. There were ten applications received, totalling £41,578.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 There is no legal obligation for the Council to provide financial or other support to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSE). The Council, however, provides financial assistance to VCSEs in two ways; through contracts to deliver specific services or projects, and through Adur Community Grants. Additionally, the Council offers discretionary rate relief and subsidised rents to these groups.
- 2.2 Adur Community Grants have been in existence for over ten years and in this time have given in excess of £600,000 to 180 groups. In April 2017, the criteria for Adur Community Grants was reviewed to ensure that it met both the strategic priorities of the Council in '*Platforms for our Places*' and the departmental aims of the Communities and Wellbeing Team cited in the '*Evidence and Intelligence Framework*'. The new criteria also reflected feedback from groups that funding is needed for overheads such as staff costs and this is often excluded by Funders. The word form was also amended to a google-form to help both groups and the back-end reporting. The new criteria and form can be found [here](#).
- 2.3 The management of the Adur Community Grants is lead by the Communities and Third Sector Lead, an Officer on the Communities and Wellbeing Team. A further ambition of the grants review was to connect the VCSE with Council Officers, [Community Works](#) (our local CVS), community or networking groups and any other relevant people; with the aim to strengthen the group and raise awareness of the project or service they provide.

2.4 On the new google application form, groups were asked to rate the grants process so far; 16% rated it 3 out of 5, 42% 4 out of 5 and 42% 5 out of 5.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 Please refer to **Appendix 1** for a weblink to the group and a brief summary of the funding requested. In addition, there is a comprehensive application form detailing the full information of the group and project.

4.0 Legal

4.1 Section 173 Local Government Act 1972 provides that if Councils are considering expenditure for which there is no other statutory power then a Local Authority may incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of their inhabitants. The Councils must ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

4.2 There is no legal obligation on the Councils to provide financial or other assistance to the voluntary and community sector. However, the Councils recognise the vital part played by voluntary groups in the life of the District. The Council does have the power to provide financial assistance to the sector under Section 1 Localism Act 2011 which provides that the Councils have the power to do anything that individuals generally may do, providing no other legislation exists to prevent it.

4.3 Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Councils shall have power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

4.4 A contract will need to be entered into by each successful group, with the Council, before any money is released.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 The total budget available for new applications to Adur Community Grants is £51,141. However, this is subject to review during this financial year.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Communities and Third Sector Lead would hereby like to make the following recommendations to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing:-

Application one - not fund

Whilst the club naturally encourages healthier lifestyles for younger people, paying for equipment and a course will not explicitly reach the priorities stipulated in the grants. It is also felt that subs, sponsorship or crowdfunding may be a better way to finance this project.

Application two - fund

School readiness for 4 year olds is a priority for the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help programme. Home-start are willing to target families in the priority areas of Southlands and Churchill.

Application three - fund

There are few groups in Adur that specifically target the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents and this is a well-established and successful annual event.

Application four - fund

This group have a proven track record of delivering youth-engagement through football. The funding will be dependent on the project targeting families in Southlands and Churchill wards, and to include wider Wellbeing messages from the Communities and Wellbeing Team for both children and parents.

Application five - not fund

There is a current contract with Citizens Advice and wider discussions about how this best fits the needs and wants of local residents; therefore, the proposal is to not fund this initiative at this moment in time.

Application six - not fund

Whilst this specifically meets a service-gap in the Adur area, the Communities and Wellbeing Team plan to address this through a new project in the Autumn. A team member will meet with the organisation and share plans and if a gap remains, will invite the group to reapply at a later date.

Application seven - not fund

It is felt that this project would be better placed with West Sussex County Council as they are the landowners and have responsibility for schools.

Application eight - fund

There are currently 23% of children attending Globe Primary School from the Churchill Ward. The funding would be offered on the basis that planning permission is granted and a business plan demonstrating the sustainability of the pool is provided.

Application nine - not fund

The Communities and Wellbeing Team would like to meet with the group and extend their existing project called '[IT Junctions](#)'. If this is not viable, or there is still a need for equipment at a later date, the group would be welcome to reapply to the grants.

Application ten - fund

A well-established and recognised group, which hits the priorities around young and vulnerable people. This group are working closely with council.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

Platforms for our Places

Communities and Wellbeing Team's Evidence and Intelligence Framework

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Appendix one

1. Application one - [Shoreham Football Club](#)

£2,500 towards sports equipment and Football Association (FA) Youth Training Courses, targeting the St Mary's ward.

2. Application two - [Home-Start](#)

£5,000 for a school readiness project entitled 'Big Hopes, Big Futures', working closely with eight families and up to 15 children to prepare both children and their parents or carers for starting school.

3. Application three - [International Neighbours](#)

£568 to pay for the hire of a hall and transport for their annual festival in Shoreham. International Neighbours enable different cultures to meet in a friendly environment, to promote social interaction and help tolerance of different ethnic groups. They work with local refugee families to help them to settle in our area and to help the children of those families to integrate with the local community.

4. Application four - [Albion in the Community](#)

£3,930 for 'Premier League Kicks'. This is a football based intervention, that uses the appeal of Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club to engage young people (11+) in a football inclusion programme. The programme will focus on a free football session held every term-time Friday 6-7pm (a recognised time of high Anti-Social Behaviour).

5. Application five - [Citizens Advice](#)

£5,000 for a specific 'Supporting the Homeless Project'. The funding would pay for a housing specialist at the Shoreham office to provide support to those facing homelessness. They would use some of the funds to train a volunteer so that we can sustain the project in the longer term. This project will identify clients from Adur that are in housing difficulty and support them to maximise income, provide debt advice, refer to council and housing associations, where applicable, and help with possession actions.

6. Application six - [Safety Net](#)

£5,000 for 'Feeling Fine On-line'; a project that will give children (and their parents) the skills to use the internet safely and to encourage children to talk to a trusted adult if they feel worried or unsafe about things that happen to them online. This could be from online bullying; viewing inappropriate content (unintentionally or which has been sent to them); or approaches from unknown adults. This project will work with children, parents/carers and schools as part of a whole school and community approach to promoting online safety.

7. Application seven - [Buckingham Events](#)

£5,000 towards the playground at Buckingham Park Primary School. A new surface would make it safe and clean to use in all weathers and will enable teachers to maximise the educational experience outside.

8. Application eight - [Friends of Globe Parents Association](#)

£4,800 towards the refurbishment of the outdoor pool within our school grounds. This will be used as a social and recreational facility for local children and young people, the wider school and village community. This project will bring back to life a largely unused facility with potential for year round community use for all ages and abilities.

9. Application nine - [Rope Tackle Arts Centre Trust](#)

£4,780 for a 'Ropetackle Volunteer Hive'. The funding would help with their 2017/2018 volunteer programme, which supports our 80 volunteers, including an induction programme, training in health and safety and 2 new computers and a bespoke volunteering online system.

10. Application ten - [Sussex Clubs for Young People](#)

£5,000 for the Fishersgate Youth Club. The funding will help continue to provide young people in an area of need with a safe environment in which to have fun, socialise and be with qualified professionals. It will also develop young volunteers and the achievements of young people through accreditation and qualifications. Additionally, the funding will help build a strong community link with young people at the centre as well as local residents and other centre users.

Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

- 1.1 Adur Community Grants have been re-aligned to the Council's priorities under Platforms for our Places and the Communities and Wellbeing Team's Intelligence and Evidence Framework.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

- 2.1 (A) Specifically, under Platforms for our Places, the 'Social Economy Platform' creates a base, enabling individuals and communities to thrive. It invites different organisations to come together to create a launch pad for those ready to go as far as their skills and talents will take them. The Social Economy Platform provide the essential safety nets for those that need them, as well as supporting individuals to turn their great ideas into reality. It enables communities thrive without necessarily having to intervening in their day-to-day lives.

(B) The grants consider any new policies, evidence or learnings from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

4.0 Equality Issues

- 4.1 In the funding criteria, it is stipulated that no group will discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- 5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

7.0 Reputation

- 7.1 Supporting the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector enhances the Council's reputation. There is always a potential risk to the Council that a group's actions could harm the reputation of the Council but this is mitigated by ensuring good checks and controls are in place before distributing funds, for the duration of the project and in the evaluations.

8.0 Consultations

- 8.1 (A) Consultation has taken place within the Communities and Wellbeing Team and West Sussex County Council before making funding recommendations. This is

important as there is a range of expertise, experience and local knowledge that can be drawn upon.

(B) Feedback has also been sought from groups applying for funds, to monitor the ease of applying and the process generally. This will help continually shape the Grants programme going forward.

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 There is no responsibility for the Council to complete a Risk Assessment for this project, however, before applying, groups tick a box to confirm “you have suitable and relevant policies (such as safeguarding or insurance) to run your project. You will be asked to provide these in if you are successful but don’t need to send them as part of this application.”

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

- 10.1 As above.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

- 11.1 Grants fall out of the procurement strategy due to the financial amounts.

12.0 Partnership Working

- 12.1 There is strong partnership working on the project with Elected Members, internal colleagues, West Sussex County Council and Community Works.