

Ward: All

Adur's Pot of Gold 2015

Report by the Director for Communities

1.0 Summary

1.1 After the success of the last five years Pot of Gold (POG) project, this report seeks member's opinions on a further revamp of the process and a release of funds.

2.0 Background

2.1 Since 2009 Adur have run 5 successful participatory budgeting events. The events have given residents the opportunity to decide where £380,000 has been spent in the district.

2.2 Though the process has allocated money to some excellent projects and a wide range of community groups, residents associations and charities, the format of the event needs to be reviewed to ensure that a wide range of proposals come forward for the next event.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that an Officer working group be set up to consider how the 'Pot of Gold' is to be taken forward over the next year. The work of the group will form part of a wider review of Community Engagement in Adur (and Worthing).

3.2 The working group is to bring proposals forward for a revamped 'Pot of Gold' process for 2015/16. The group is to consider:

- How best to engage with the local community on bringing ideas forward;
- Whether the event should be targeted at a specific theme or group;
- What sort of projects or ideas should be encouraged to come forward;
- How best to publicise the value of the Councils investment in participatory budgeting, including proposals to publicise the impact of "Pot of gold" grants awarded in previous years.

The working group is to report back to the Leader in September to enable the event to be run early in 2015/16.

3.3 It is suggested that £50,000 is released from the capacity reserves to fund the event.

3.4 Proposed Timetable –

October 2014	Coming soon trailer on Social Media sites. (Seek Community Freepaper for ads)
November 2014	Start Herald advertising and distribution of leaflets to community facilities / groups
December 2014 (actual date Monday 1st December)	Applications formally open
February 2015 (actual date Monday 2nd February)	Applications close
February 2015 (week commencing 23rd February)	Short listing panel to sit
April 2015 (week commencing 6th April)	Voting event takes place

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 Under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may do provided that the activity is not specifically prohibited by legislation. There is no relevant legislation that would prevent the Council undertaking the actions outlined in the recommendations.
- 4.2 Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.
- 4.3 Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council shall have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or in conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their function.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 Members are asked to release £50,000 from the Capacity Issues Reserve to enable the exercise to go ahead for 2015/16 and to provide flexibility in considering which of the bids should be accepted.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Joint Strategic Committee:
- i) approve that all the £50,000 be released from Capacity reserves
 - ii) Agree the proposed timetable

**Local Government Act 1972
Background Papers:**

N/A

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

- 1.1 To Protect and Improve Priority Services: Listen to our Community. We also have a strategic corporate document, Catching the Wave in which Cultivating Enterprising Communities is one of the key priorities.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

- 2.1 None identified – Formally on the Community Action Plan

3.0 Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 No issues identified

4.0 Equality Issues

- 4.1 One of the process aims is to inject funds into some of our deprived wards.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- 5.1 The current scoring matrix includes a deduction of points for any project that could have any crime and disorder or health and safety issues related to it.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 No issues identified

7.0 Reputation

- 7.1 Over the past 5 events it is deemed that the process has had a positive impact on the reputation of the council

8.0 Consultations

- 8.1 No issues identified

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 No issues identified

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

- 10.1 No issues identified

11.0 Procurement Strategy

- 11.1 No issues identified

12.0 Partnership Working

- 12.1 No issues identified