



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Executive Members for
Health & Wellbeing
9 March 2020

Decision to be taken on or after
17 March 2020

Key Decision [~~Yes~~/No]
Ward(s) Affected: All

**Adur Community Grants
Allocation of Funds for 2019/20
Round Three, final for year**

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report requests the Executive Members for Health and Wellbeing to consider the allocation of the 2019/20 Adur Community Grants Budget. Specifically, the remaining budget for this financial year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing is recommended to approve the funding allocations as set out in section 4 of the report.

3. Context

- 3.1. Adur has a vibrant and diverse community and voluntary sector; hundreds of charities and groups help Adur residents to prosper, thrive, be healthy and happy. The majority of these groups are running on no income and hugely dependent on the dedication, passion and time of fantastic volunteers. The aim of Adur Community Grants is to provide financial and non-monetary support to such groups, enabling them to try something new or continue a much-needed service locally.
- 3.2. Adur Community Grants have been around for over ten years and have given £750,000 to over 230 projects.
- 3.3. There is no legal duty or obligation for the Council to provide financial, or other support to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE). Adur Council highly values this sector and is proud to still be able to offer Community Grants. Additionally, the Council also contracts VCSEs to deliver specific projects or services, and offers discretionary rate relief and subsidised rents to groups.
- 3.4. [Community Works](#), the infrastructure support organisation who supports locally VCSEs continues to play a role in supporting groups - particularly in fundraising and recommended the fund to a few of the groups.
- 3.5. Two funding rounds took place in 2019, with fourteen applications successful.

4. Issues for consideration / Financial implications

The budget for Adur Community Grants for the year is £40,000 and there is also income from the textile recycling banks in Adur which is paid monthly.

There have been two rounds in 2019/20 and the total allocated to groups was £33,910.

Of this, one organisation will no longer be claiming £5,000 (Sussex Community Development Association) and this was not known until mid-February 2020 due to a change in the project they requested funding for.

| Income | Expenditure | Balance |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| £40,000 (grant budget) | £28,910.00 | £11,090 |
| £778.45 (textile recycling to date)* | | £11,868.45 |
| £261.00 estimated further textile income** | | £12,129.45 |

*As of December 2019

**Based on January, February and March being an average of £87.

One extraordinary request came in mid-round from 'Adur 4 Refugees' requesting £50 towards supporting the costs of an event for Syrian Refugees which Councillor Simmons approved by email in December.

By background to the next recommendation- Going Local is the Social Prescribing project in Adur, used by all GP practices, which supports people to improve their health and wellbeing by looking at non-clinical signposting. This project has been live for three and half years and for the past two, there has also been a unique Housing referral pathway delivered by Citizens Advice. The total cost for this post per annum is £30,000.

The recommendation is that this remaining known budget of £11,868 and any subsequent income from the textile recycling for 2019/20 is used to support the cost of this post in 2021/22. Adur and Worthing Councils housing team will match this with £10,000. Externally funding has also been sought and will be continued- a recent bid to Nationwide was unfortunately unsuccessful. This Wellbeing Housing Advice Team (WHAT) post is now fundamental to Going Local, with 15-20 referrals each month with some great outcomes in preventing homeless, securing more appropriate accommodation and helping people to navigate the housing systems.

Originally, it was estimated that there would be £7,000 remaining in the Adur Community Grants budget which also is not enough to open a public third grants round for the financial year.

5. Engagement and Communication

Ordinarily, Adur Community Grants would have opened for a public third round but because the budget was expected to be around £7,000 this did not merit opening this given that usually between 5 and 10 organisations apply each round with the maximum budget at £5,000.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides that if Council is 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 Council must ensure that the direct benefit accruing to its area or residents is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.
- 6.2. There is no legal obligation on the Council to provide financial or other assistance to the voluntary and community sector. However, the Council 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 Council have the power to do anything that individuals generally may do, providing no other legislation exists to prevent it.
- 6.3. Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council 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.

Background Papers

Adur Community Grants [Priorities and Criteria](#)
[Platforms for our Places](#)

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

Sustainability has been considered and no issues identified. In terms of a risk assessment and ensuring groups are operating in a safe way, successful groups sign a contract before the money is released. This is the contract they return:

1. No other funding has already been obtained to deliver this specific project.
2. The grant will only be used for the project described on the application form and subject to the stipulated conditions. Any further changes must be agreed by Adur District Council (ADC) before proceeding.
3. The project will start within six months of receipt of the grant and any unused money will be returned to ADC.
4. We will comply with all laws regulating the way we operate, the activities we undertake, the staff we employ and the goods we buy.
5. We have a **Safeguarding Policy** and relevant **Insurance** to carry out the project and will send copies of these to ADC. We will ensure that staff and volunteers have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check if required.
6. We will act in a fair and open manner and without discrimination at all times.
7. We understand that the grant is made inclusive of VAT.
8. We accept that ADC may need to share information about the grant under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. ADC also has the right to publicise the grant and related project as they see fit. We will acknowledge ADC as a funder and use ADCs logo if appropriate.
9. ADC has the right to withdraw the grant at any time. For example, if the conditions or detail in the application form aren't met, if any law is broken in the delivery of the project and if the Council's name or reputation is brought into disrepute.
10. We will provide an evaluation within one month of the project end date.

1. Economic

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, and plays a part in helping the area reach its economic potential by supporting the VCSEs.

2. Social

2.1. Social Value

Funding these groups has a big social impact, often helping to reach the hardest or most vulnerable residents.

2.2 Equality Issues

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.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no issues identified.

4. Governance

Successfully funded organisations will be expected to self-govern but through the contract that must be signed before the funds are released, the Council protects itself by asking groups to have insurance, safeguarding policies and the ability to withdraw the grant if any law is broken in the delivery of the project and if the Council's name or reputation is brought into disrepute.