

SUBJECT:	Subscriptions and Donations Grant
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Community and Partnerships Manager

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider requests for subscriptions and donations from community organisations for 2015-16

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 There are links to the Sustainable Community Strategy, Community Safety Plan, Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy and Housing Strategy

3. Background

- 3.1 Community and Voluntary organisations have been invited to apply to the Subscription and Donation fund for the 2015-16 financial year. Funding is awarded ahead of the financial year so that the community and voluntary groups can plan for a full year of service.

4. Proposal/Discussion

- 4.1 Information for the assessment of applications is based on the strategy recommended by the Policy Advisory Group:

- (a) A need for financial assistance;
- (b) How the project/service benefits the community (linking into how the project supports identified needs and gaps);
- (c) Clear links to the Council priorities
- (d) The number of residents, businesses or groups that will benefit from the project/service;
- (e) Past performance of the organisation;
- (f) Open access to the community;
- (g) The percentage of the overall grant requested;
- (h) Whether other funding has been sought;
- (i) Whether charges are made for the services provided;
- (j) Whether services / activities will help to reduce local inequalities.

- 4.2 The criteria stipulates that the funding is to be used for general running costs and cannot support purchase of equipment, capital expenditure, sport or cultural events or one off community events.

- 4.3 Details of the applications are summarised in the appendix to this report. Comments have been included on meeting the objectives of key strategies and information on last year's payments. In addition recommendations from Officers for funding are also included and feedback from Members.

- 4.4 Recommendations for funding in the appendix have been developed based on each application's merits, on a case by case basis. Rather than ensuring the full budget is

allocated at this stage. This has resulted in recommendations for 2015-16 not totalling the full budget available.

- 4.5 Following Members views on the allocation of funding, if there is budget still available then further applications can be received throughout the financial year 2015-2016. Following these applications, an option for consideration is that any remaining budget could be transferred to the Chairman's Fund?

5. Resource and Wider Policy Implications

- 5.1 For 2015/2016 the proposed budget for Subscription and Donations is £31,680.
- 5.2 From this budget £8,708 has been designated to the Bucks Infrastructure Contract, leaving £22,972 available for allocation to the remaining voluntary and community sector organisations. The total amount requested from the Subscriptions and Donations budget is £84,365. The amount recommended for funding is £18,155.
- 5.3 Buckinghamshire Infrastructure Contract has been in operation since 2011 enabling voluntary sector support through; online, telephone, face to face assistance and through the delivery of training, coaching and other assistance. This contract has been delivered through Community Impact Bucks and the contract has enabled other funding to be attracted to the sector. Buckinghamshire County Council has asked its District partners to consider continuation of the funding for the next two years, during which time a new tender exercise would be conducted. Members are asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on continued funding the Bucks Infrastructure Contract for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 5.4 The total amount requested from the Subscriptions and Donations budget is £84,365. The amount recommended for funding is £18,155.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Policy Advisory Group considers the applications and recommendations for Subscriptions and Donations and advises the Portfolio Holder accordingly.
- 6.2 That the Policy Advisory Group considers the request by Buckinghamshire County Council and asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on continued funding the Bucks Infrastructure Contract for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 6.2 That members take a view on whether remaining funds in the Subscription and Donations, after further invitations for applications have been issued, can be transferred to the Chairman's Fund.

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Background Papers:	Grant application summaries.