

SUBJECT:	<i>Community Grants Proposal</i>
RELEVANT MEMBER	<i>Councillor Patrick Hogan, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Martin Holt; ; martin.holt@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>(All Wards);</i>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To agree the process to award funding for the community project grants for the period 2019/2020
- 1.2. To agree the Service Level Agreement funding for a three year period, subject to a signed service level agreement to key organisations delivering services for vulnerable persons in South Bucks

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **To agree community grant funding of**
 - a. **£4,000 per annum to Rape Crisis**
 - b. **£42,023 per annum to Three Rivers CAB**
 - c. **£7,000 per annum to Wycombe Womens Aid**
 - d. **6,900 per annum to Connections****for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022, subject to a signed service level agreement**
2. **To agree continued funding of £8,000 to Buckinghamshire County Council to provide the voluntary sector infrastructure support contract within South Bucks District and the wider Buckinghamshire area for the period 2019/20.**
3. **To agree to combine the Community Development Grant, lottery Community Central Pot and the Chairman's Fund to establish the South Bucks Community Grants to be administered by the Council**
4. **To retain £5,000 from the Chairman's Fund for small awards to be distributed by the Chairman.**
5. **To agree the South Bucks Community Grants criteria detailed in Appendix 1.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1. To enable the voluntary and community sector to deliver services in the community.
- 2.2. To provide certainty of funding for the key organisations in receipt of an SLA during the transitional period of the Unitary Council.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1. The voluntary and community sector provides support and services to meet a wide range of needs that would not otherwise be provided by statutory services.
- 3.2. The Council currently provides funding to the voluntary sector through; the Chairman's Fund, the award of Community Development grants, and the allocation of the Community Lottery Fund. The Council also awards funding to key organisations delivering services for vulnerable persons in South Bucks via a Service Level Agreement.

Service Level Agreements

- 3.3. The Culture Leisure and Wellbeing workstream of the Communities Project Board established to support the transition of services to Unitary Council has identified that organisations in receipt of SLA funding could be at risk unless funding agreements are in place for the transition period. The key organisations delivering services for SBDC are; Three Rivers CAB, Connections (formally Padstones), Wycombe Womens Aid (WWA), Rape Crisis.

Table 1

	£
Rape crisis	4,000
Three Rivers CAB	42,023
W. W. Aid	7,000
Connections (formally Padstones)	6,900

- 3.4. By awarding three year funding this reduces the risk to their cash flow. It allows for the budgetary provision to be transferred to the new organisation. Any decisions made by that organisation in respect of grant funding can then be managed in a timely fashion. It is proposed to award the funding amounts to the organisations detailed in Table 1 for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022
- 3.5. Organisations receiving funding are subject to outcome performance monitoring and awarded a three year service level agreement, reviewable annually, should the organisation no longer deliver in accordance with Council priorities
- 3.6. The performance monitoring data is detailed in Appendix 2

Voluntary sector Infrastructure Contract

- 3.7. Community Impact Bucks deliver the voluntary sector infrastructure support across Buckinghamshire. The infographic report detailing some of the outcomes in South Bucks is detailed in Appendix 3.
- 3.8. The contract administered by Buckinghamshire County Council is due to end 31st March 2020, with each District contributing to the costs of the contract. SBDC currently contributes £8,000/annum. The County has determined to extend the contract with a view to recommissioning services following the establishment of the Unitary Council. It is recommended that SBDC continues to contribute to the infrastructure contract for 2019/20.

South Bucks Community Grants

- 3.9. In 2017/18 and 2018/19 the council piloted an approach to enable the Heart of Bucks to administer the Councils community grants in return for match funding the pot. The scheme had a mixed reception from members as concern was raised that the award of funding did not consider the Councils immediate priorities.
- 3.10. Following the Unitary decision, members have expressed a desire to bring the community grants back in house, to be administered by officers with the award of funding agreed by the PAG/Cabinet. This would allow the £10,000 community grant fund to be matched with the SBDC lottery contribution of approximately £4,700 (at May 2019) and the £19,500 chairman's awards, providing a fund of approx. £34,200 to be awarded to the community by the Council.
- 3.11. This would create the opportunity to provide a legacy from SBDC and provide some useful PR as well as supporting local community organisations.
- 3.12. The existing criteria of the Community Development Grants and the Chairman's Fund had been brought together into one set of criteria for consideration by the PAG. The PAG agreed that the proposed grant criteria should be amended (as at Appendix 1) to ensure the process was flexible, applications from organisations would be encouraged and none would be put off from a lengthy process for a relatively small award.
- 3.13. Applicants will apply for the funding via a link on the SBDC website, officers will manage the application process, ensure the correct organisations apply for funding, check their eligibility and produce reports for the decision making panel. They will also manage the payments of the grants and monitoring.
- 3.14. Recommendations on the award of funding are made by the Healthy Communities PAG to Cabinet following consultation with Ward Members.

3.15. It is intended for the Community Grants to be launched in July with award of funding in January. Retrospective applications for activities delivered prior to the January 2020 determination will be considered at the applicants own risk.

4 Consultation

Not Applicable

5 Options (if any)

To administer the award funding directly by the Council

To continue with the Heart of Bucks to award the councils grant funding

6 Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

7.1 Financial – Grant funding of £10,000 has been agreed for 2019/20, the Chairman's Fund has a balance of £21,500, the lottery Community central pot has a balance of £4,700

7.2 Legal – The Council has power under the general power of competence to enter into arrangements with external organisations to manage grant funding subject to

7 Links to Council Policy Objectives

Working towards safe and healthier local communities

8 Next Steps

Following Cabinet agreement the Grants scheme will be promoted to the community

Background Papers:	None, other than those referred to in this report.
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