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| SUBJECT: | <i>Subscriptions & Donations to Community Organisations for 2016-17</i> |
| REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | <i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i> |
| REPORT AUTHOR | <i>Claire Speirs – 01895 837306 – Claire.Speirs@SouthBucks.gov.uk</i> |
| WARD/S AFFECTED | <i>As detailed in the Appendix to the report</i> |

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the requests for subscriptions and donations received from community organisations for financial year 2016-17 and to agree the sums to be paid.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member agrees the grant payments to community organisations in financial year 2016-17 having regard to the recommendations set out within Appendix 1 to the report and the comments of the Healthy Communities PAG.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

The application from each community organisation has been reviewed and the recommended levels of funding are based on how the application meets the funding criteria, how it benefits the community and whether it meets the Council's priorities.

4. Content of Report

- 4.1 Community and Voluntary organisations have been invited to apply to the Subscription and Donation fund for the 2016-17 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.
- 4.2 Information for the assessment of applications is based on the strategy recommended by the Policy Advisory Group as follows:
- (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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

- 4.5 The recommendations for funding have been made based on each application's merits, on a case by case basis, rather than ensuring the full budget is allocated at this stage. As a result funding would remain available in the 2016-17 budget. Following consideration of the officer's funding recommendations and if there is budget still available, further applications can be entertained throughout the financial year 2016-2017. Should any of the budget remain unallocated at the end of the financial year one option for consideration is to transfer these monies to the Chairman's Fund.

5. Consultation

As set out in the Appendix

6. Options

The proposed budget for Subscription and Donations in 2016/2017 is £31,680. From this budget £8,708 has been designated for the Bucks Infrastructure Contract as approved by members on 3rd March 2015, 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 £64,841.98 from 18 applicants. The amount of funding recommended by officers having regard to the Council's funding criteria and priorities is £22,850. This level of funding can be agreed or other sums allocated to the community organisations up to the available budget of £22,972. The options for dealing with any unallocated budget are to entertain further in-year applications or to transfer unallocated funds to the Chairman's Charity Fund

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Financial - there are insufficient funds in the budget to cover the all the funding requested by community organisations for 2016/17. But following assessment of the requests by your officers against the PAGs funding criteria and Council priorities, the recommended funding can be met within the allocated budget.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Details of how each application links to the Council policy objectives is detailed within Appendix 1

9. Next Steps

Applicants will be informed and payment made after the Cabinet Member's decision

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| Background Papers: | Application forms and accompanying information as summarised in Appendix 1 |
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