

SUBJECT:	<i>Community Grants Criteria</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Cllr Paul Kelly – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
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>Not Applicable</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To consult PAG members views on the proposed application process and grant criteria for the Councils Community Grants programme to be delivered by Heart of Bucks (HOB)

RECOMMENDATION

- That Members consider and advise the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities on the proposed South Bucks District Council Community Grants programme to be delivered by Heart of Bucks, and matched funded by a donor to increase the size of the funding pot available.
- That subject to members' comments the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities agrees the South Bucks District Council Community Grants criteria as detailed in Appendix 1.
- That the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities be nominated as the Council's representative on the Heart of Bucks decision-making panel.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

Working in partnership with HOB to deliver the Community Grants programme will enable the grant funding to reach a larger audience within South Bucks District Council. HOB has a greater funding presence in the community than SBDC, communities actively seek out HOB for funding, and the current Community Development fund is undersubscribed.

HOB will be able to match fund the community grant enabling additional resources to be available in South Bucks and assist the Council in meeting its savings target detailed in the medium term financial strategy

3. Content of Report

- 3.1 At the Healthy Communities PAG on 3rd December 2016 members agreed to merge the Community Development grants and the Subscriptions and Donations fund to promote a grant scheme with a single application process.
- 3.2 South Bucks District Council currently offers three grants schemes; Community Development Grants, Subscriptions and Donations and the Chairman's Community Fund. This report brings together the Community Development Grants and the Subscriptions and Donations. The Chairman's Community Fund will still continue to operate separately.

- 3.3 The existing criteria of the Community Development Grants and the Subscriptions and Donations has been brought together into one set of criteria **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 Officers have met with HOB to discuss working in partnership. HOB supports community projects by working closely with donors and offers a range of services enabling local business, individuals and other charitable trusts and foundations to support communities in Bucks. HOB acts as the conduit between funders and applicants; currently they represent Youth Social Action Fund and Youth Bank. Applicants express an interest in funding and HOB matches them to a specific 'pot'.
- 3.5 It is proposed that HOB manage the new Community Development Grant, in its entirety. They will also link with a match funder to increase the total monies available to communities. HOB are currently seeking a donor to match the SBDC contribution of £10,000. South Bucks will be able to increase the grant contribution to £20,000/annum subject to match funding by HOB
- 3.6 Applicants will apply for the funding via a link on the SBDC website, HOB 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.
- 3.7 Decisions are made by the Heart of Bucks Grants Panel to which SBDC can nominate a representative/s. It is proposed that the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities is the Council's nominee. Panel packs are created by HOB and sent out to the panel electronically several weeks prior to the meeting
- 3.8 It is intended for the Community Development Grants to be an annual application each July, with an application launch in April of each year. It is proposed that the initial award of funding by South Bucks District Council to the HOB administered Community Grant is £10,000 to be matched by a donor.
- 3.9 HOB charge a 10% fee to manage the grants process, however this can be claimed in Gift Aid from the Donor, for example:

SBDC contribution	£10K
Donor Match Fund	£10K
Sub Total	£20K
HOB Fee (10%)	-£2K
Gift Aid	£2.5K
Total Fund	£20.5K

4. Consultation

Initial consultation has taken place with current grant recipients and this was detailed in the previous report (December 2016)

5. Options

HOB to manage the grant programme and award funding annually. A representative/s from Health Communities PAG to attend panel meetings to decide on the grant recipients.

Continue to manage grants in house.

7. Corporate Implications

- 3.1 Financial – Grant funding of £10,000 has been agreed for 2017/18. The cost of HOB services will be met from the Gift Aid scheme.
- 3.2 Legal – The Council has power under the general power of competence to enter into arrangements with external organisations to manage grant funding subject to satisfactory terms and condition to ensure the proper application of public funds

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

9. Next Step

Officers to work with HOB and launch the new scheme in March / April for decisions to be made in July.

Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services)
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