

<b>SUBJECT</b>	2017/18 Grant funding review and future proposals
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Cllr Patrick Hogan – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	All

## 1. Purpose of Report

To feedback the key outcomes of the 2017/18 grants programme and seek support to introduce Crowdfunder as an additional mechanism to increase funding to local community groups

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

1. **Continue to deliver 2018/19 grant funding through Heart of Bucks with a contribution of £10,000 to be match funded**
2. **To establish a project to deliver a crowd funding initiative in South Bucks in partnership with Heart of Bucks and Chiltern District Council to enable improved opportunities for the community, to be funded from resources within the existing community projects budget.**

## 2. Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 Local voluntary groups play an ever increasing role in providing valuable services across South Bucks communities, often to vulnerable and isolated residents. Widening the availability of funding streams to support groups by;

- providing a joint SBDC and Heart of Bucks grant with matched funds,
- promoting the Chiltern and South Bucks Lottery,
- directing groups to Trust funding and
- exploring the potential to roll out crowd funding

will in an era of reduced public funding, provide additional opportunities for the local voluntary sector to remain viable.

## 3. Content of Report

3.1 On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 members of the Healthy Communities PAG agreed that grant funding in South Bucks could be delivered in partnership with Heart of Bucks to attract additional funding for local community groups and reduce the administrative pressures of the Council directly managing the scheme.

3.2 The funding was distributed by Heart of Bucks in 2 rounds throughout 2017/18. The first round was in July 2017, £20,000 was available to applicants, £10,000 from SBDC

and £10,000 from a match funder, 16 applications were received totalling £28,674, and £16,176 was awarded to successful applicants.

3.3 The fund was opened again in February 2018 with £13,824 available. This was made up from the underspend in the July round (£3,824) and £10,000 from SBDC. Heart of Bucks cannot approach match funders for the same pot twice in a financial year. Applications received requested £20,979; £10,479 was allocated to applicants. Appendix One details the applications received and awarded in both rounds.

3.4 Through both funding rounds £26,655 was awarded to 20 projects in South Bucks with 8,305 combined beneficiaries with demonstrated positive impacts.

3.5 As detailed in the quote below, Dorney Playground Management Group demonstrate how the grant has made such a positive impact in the local community by improving play facilities. *'Thanks to this funding, the site has been improved massively. The original safety surface had not only deteriorated, but had become a source of 'litter' at the park. The new surface has eradicated this problem and thereby improved the surroundings and environment of the wider park area. Now that the site is clean, tidy and free of loose infill chippings the difference to the children playing on the equipment is considerable. The entrance point is now level and clear allowing easy wheelchair and buggy access. Different aged children within one family unit can all play together and enjoy the equipment at the same time. We are visited by a lot of families with children under one year and several with wheelchairs or older grandparents with limited mobility who can all now get close to or on this piece of equipment. It has been a significant improvement to see those groups be able to be together'.*

3.6 Given the success of working in partnership with the Heart of Bucks it is proposed to continue with this arrangement to deliver the 2018/19 grant scheme. This year's programme has been allocated £10,000 towards community development grants, and it is anticipated Heart of Bucks will match this amount providing a total of £20,000 for local community groups to access.

### **Crowdfunder**

3.7 Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the internet. In recent years many local Councils have adopted this approach to help attract funding to support community projects. The approach involves community and voluntary groups identifying an idea and then promoting the funding opportunity to supporters. Projects to deliver children's activities, learning, environmental improvements, return to employment and homeless prevention are just a few of the examples.

- 3.8 Officers from SBDC and Heart of Bucks recently met with Crowdfunder the UK's largest rewards based funding platform to discuss future funding opportunities. Nationally Crowdfunder has helped over 88,000 projects with funding of over £50M.
- 3.9 Crowdfunder works with a range of local councils to promote opportunities for the local voluntary sector. One method of delivery is to develop an on line platform that voluntary organisations use to promote their ideas and business plans and market to the community.
- 3.10 If widely supported the Council may decide to contribute resources to the initiative, if all the funding required is raised, the project goes live. If there is a resource gap, the project is withdrawn from the platform and no funds are spent. The community fully participates in the success or otherwise of the initiative. Supporters can pledge resources in time, space or financial contributions
- 3.11 The initiative is very attractive to those who are linked in to local social media accounts and whilst small amounts of resource may be pledged by supporters, the reach is such that a project may be widely accepted and supported enabling the resource target to be achieved.
- 3.12 The average time for the idea to be launched on the platform to resources promised is 28 days, considerably faster than the traditional grant making periods
- 3.13 Plymouth provided an initial £60,000 to a crowd funding pot to be used to provide support to community supported projects. That pot has seen a 650% return with over £450,000, allocated to 100 projects and has attract 4,550 project supporters. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-plymouth>
- 3.14 Crowdfunder charge a 5% fee from the project owner on a successful fundraising project, which can be factored into the project target. For example if project will cost £100 to deliver the target can be increased to £105 to cover this additional cost.

### **Proposal**

- 3.15 To establish a crowd funding platform in 2019/20 across Chiltern and South Bucks in partnership with the Heart of Bucks initially utilising the joint lottery community fund as the seed corn funding which is predicted to be £10,000, to be matched by Heart of Bucks enabling a £20,000 pot. Additional funds could be contributed from areas that may benefit from crowdfunding initiatives such as the prevention of homelessness or economic development, enabling back to employment initiatives.
- 3.16 There is also costs of approximately £10,000 associated with setting up the operating platform plus additional costs to effectively promote the scheme. These set up fees would be shared with Chiltern utilising the shared service formula.

- 3.17 As well as providing the operating platform for local community groups Crowdfunder also provides a range of additional support including a project dashboard on the website for each project, access to marketing advice and sharing of best practice.
- 3.18 Officers have met with Heart of Bucks to discuss how both parties can continue to work together if Crowdfunder is introduced, and there is strong in principle support to take this approach forward given the positive impact of leveraging in additional funding for local community organisations.
- 3.19 It is anticipated to launch this programme in April 2019 should approval be granted, Crowdfunder would meet with a project group including the Portfolio Holder to discuss programme in more detail.

Funding for the proposed South Bucks and Chiltern Crowd Funding initiative comes from several sources.

### **3. Consultation**

The Council has discussed the proposed approach with officers from its key funding partner, Heart of Bucks who were very supportive.

### **4. Options (*if any*)**

- 1)to continue to work with Heart of Bucks to deliver the joint South Bucks and Heart of Bucks grant programme and to work together to develop a Crowdfunding offer to the community
- 2)to continue to work with Heart of Bucks to deliver the joint South Bucks and Heart of Bucks grant programme but not progress to the crowd funding project
- 3)to cease working with Heart of Bucks and develop a separate grant process for South Bucks

## 7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial – the proposal would use funding currently within the budget programme to establish the crowd funding scheme and the extension of the joint South Bucks and Heart of Bucks grant programme.

7.2 Legal – the Local Government Act 2000 enables local authorities to support initiative in improving the Wellbeing of their area. Investment in the local Voluntary and Community organisations assists in the delivery of projects that improve community wellbeing.

## 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

Safe, Healthy and Active communities-Council has a duty to consider the health and wellbeing of its community, enabling improved access and provision of playing pitches would directly support this as well as strengthen partnership working with Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector.

## 9. Next Steps

Establishment of a joint project with Heart of Bucks and Chiltern District to progress the project

<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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## Appendix One: Application received and funding granted in 2017/18

## Round 1

Group	Project description	Amount requested	Amount awarded
Carers Bucks	Support groups including the 'caring for you' programme in Denham and Iver	£1,500	£1,500
Denham Bowls Club	Maintenance of the bowling green	£5,000	£1,500
Chilterns MS Centre	Contribution to therapeutic treatment and support for sufferers and the families	£1,500	£1,500
Relate - Mid Thames and Bucks	Counselling support services bursary fund	£1,100	£1,100
Richings Players	50% contribution to non-show expenses such as scenery / costume storage and website hosting	£702	£702
ENRYCH	to develop a South Bucks Disability Partnership	£1,500	£1,500
Gerrards Cross Short Mat Bowls Club	Contribution to rent costs	£1,000	£1,000
Mona Lisa Arts & Media		£4,450	
Beaconsfield Society		£1,500	
Richings Park Sports Club	Contribution towards new children's playground on the playing fields	£1,500	£1,500
Burnham Parish Council	Burnham Parks and playgrounds regeneration project	£1,500	£1,500
Iver Community Association		£2,500	
Iver Heath Residents Association		£521	
Dorney Playground Management Group	Maintenance of playground and multi use games area	£1,500	£1,500
Thames Hospice	Replacement of 6 mattresses in the hospice in patient unit	£1,500	£1,500
1st Iver Scouts	Gazebos to be used at all scouting activities	£1,374	£1,374
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£28,647</b>	<b>£16,176</b>

## Round 2

Group		Amount requested	Amount awarded
Age UK Bucks	Contribution to the Welfare Benefits service	£1,500	£1,500
Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust		£4,000	
Burnham Guide Supporters Association	HQ toilet refurbishment	£3,450	£1,450
Denham Cricket Club	Service and repairs to mowers	£1,250	£1,250
East to West Trust	Contribution to salary of family link worker at Iver Village Infant & Junior Schools	£1,379	£1,379
Fulmer Parish Council		£1,500	
Iver Parochial Church Council	Community family fun day	£1,500	£1,500
Lions Club of Burnham	Christmas fayre and children's parade	£1,500	£1,500
One Can Trust		£1,500	
South Bucks Children's Book Group	The world around us' event for national non-fiction month	£400	£400
Rennie Grove Hospice Care		£1,500	
Stoke Poges Singers	Contribution towards hall hire for choir and replacement music folders	£1,500	£1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£20,979</b>	<b>£10,479</b>