

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - 21 JANUARY 2020
CABINET – 5 FEBRUARY 2020

COMMUNITY GRANTS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 20 and 22 November the Community Grants Task and Finish Group met to examine the Community Grant applications received for the 2020/2021 financial year. Twenty applicants attended and each gave a presentation to the Task & Finish Group, followed by a question and answer session.
- 1.2 The Task and Finish Group comprised Cllrs Alvey, Davis, J Davies, S Davies O’Sullivan, Penman and Sevier, with input from key Council Officers. Meetings were also attended by Cllr Mrs D Andrews, the Portfolio Holder for Community Affairs.

2 PROCESS

- 2.1 As part of their interview, all grant applicants were asked to evidence their accounts, and how their application would meet the needs of, and benefit or support, residents in the District. Applicants were also asked to explain how their funding request linked to the priorities set out in the Council’s Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 Following the presentations, the Task and Finish Group fully discussed and reviewed the information submitted with the applications and presented at interview. In formulating a recommendation for each grant request, members referred to the agreed criteria, the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities, and the value for money being offered.
- 2.3 The recommendations, with reasons, for the determination of each of the grant requests, are summarised in **Appendix 1** and in further detail in **Appendix 2**.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total amount to be awarded, should the Cabinet approve the recommendations set out in **Appendix 1**, is £113,500 of Revenue expenditure (including an additional £6,000 to New Forest Disability Information Services – see **Appendix 2**) and £97,650 for capital. The total amount of awards granted last year was £131,500 for Revenue and £86,000 for capital.

4. COMMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

(TBC)

5. PORTFOLIO HOLDER’S COMMENTS

I fully support the recommended grants as set out above, but would like to propose that the award to *Youth and Families Matter be increased from £5,000 to £7,500, in view of the vital role that the organisation plays in the community, and in particular in helping to fulfil the objectives of Safer New Forest.

6. DOCUMENTATION / PROCESS

- 6.1 As part of a process of continuous improvement, it is intended that officers will review the website content and applications documentation, to streamline the reporting system whilst ensuring members continue to make meaningful and informed decisions.
- 6.2 That, in future, grant awardees be invited to a second interview in July to update the Council on progress with their projects and also to be advised of alternative sources of funding should they be considering further grant applications to the Council.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the community grant awards as set out in **Appendix 1**, and in more detail in **Appendix 2**, be recommended to the Cabinet for approval and inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Plan; and

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Background Papers:

Grant application forms