

COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS 2018**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval for the allocation of community grants as set out in **Appendix 1** for inclusion in the 2018 budget.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 17 January 2017 recommended to the Cabinet a revised Community Grants Eligibility Criteria which was approved by the Cabinet on 7 February 2017. The new criteria set robust parameters in which local voluntary and community aided groups could apply to the Council for grant aid. A process for assessing the applications, namely via interviews with the Task & Finish Group was also devised. This approach has been used for determining the applications received during the application stage (August – October 2017) for inclusion in the 2018/19 Council budget.
- 2.2 On 8 and 18 December the Community Grants Task and Finish Group re-convened to examine the Community Grant applications received for the 2018/2019 financial year. In total, twenty-three applications were received. Nineteen applicants were invited to give a presentation to the Task & Finish Group. Three applicants did not meet the Council's adopted eligibility criteria for varying reasons.
- 2.3 The Task & Finish Group comprised Cllrs Mrs Cerasoli, Davies, Penman and White with input from key Council Officers.

3. PROCESS

- 3.1 As part of their interview, all grant Applicants were asked to evidence their accounts, business case and how their request would meet the needs of, and benefit, 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.
- 3.2 Following the presentations, the Task & 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. Whilst there was an increase in the number of applications this year (23 up from 17), a number of these did not meet the Council's grant criteria or fit in with the Council's corporate plan objectives.
- 3.3 The recommendations, with reasons, determining each of the grant requests, is set out in **Appendix 1**.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The total amount to be awarded, should the Cabinet approve the recommendations set out in Appendix 1, is £218,020. This level of award results in a general fund

saving of £11,500 for 2018/19 in comparison to the base budget for 2017/18. The sum of one-off grants (inclusive within the £218.020 total) to be funded via reserves is £80,540, an increase of £9,540 in comparison to 2017/18. The general fund saving and use of reserves has been built into the budget assumptions, as per report 10 of this Cabinet agenda.

5. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

5.1 Summary of Applications Received

ITEM	APPLICANT	RECOMMENDATION
A	CODA	£2,500
B	Yellow Door	£5,000
C	NF Disability Information Service	£10,000
D	hArt	£6,000
E	Forest Arts	£17,000
F	Forest Forge	£28,000
G	Turn Up for Fun	£0
H	Youth & Family Matters	£4,740
I	SPUD	£0
J	Handy Trust	£3,740
K	Family Matters	£3,000
L	Copythorne Play Area	£23,000 *
M	Fawley Rugby Club	£28,600 *
N	Hythe Sea Scouts	£0
O	Marchwood Girl Guides	£20,000 *
P	Totton & Eling Tennis Club	£6,500 *
Q	SPUD (Capital Grant)	£0
R	Sway Village Hall (Revenue Grant)	£2,440 *
S	Totton Time Bank	£0
T	Community First New Forest (a) Operating Costs	£40,000
	Community First New Forest (b) Health Walks	£2,500
	Community First New Forest (c) Nightstop	£15,000
Total		£218,020

*one-off grant, funded via use of reserves

5.2 Applications were also received from the following organisations: -

- a) Lymington Community Association – funding request for £100k to support the development of a pottery shed and upgrade the kitchen and toilet facilities to enable the community centre to attract corporate events and civil ceremonies.
- b) Ringwood Social Club – funding request of £125,000 to support the renovation of the social club.
- c) Sway Village Hall – funding request of £450,000 to fund the re-development of the village hall which accounted for 100% of the total project costs.

The Task & Finish Group recommends that the grant applications from these three organisations not be supported as this time.

6. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

- 6.1 The Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel considered the recommendations of the Community Grants Task & Finish Group at their meeting on 16 January 2018. The Panel supported the allocation of grants as set out in 5.1 above.
- 6.2 After receiving representations from Lymington Community Association and the local ward member, the Panel discussed whether this organisation should be allowed to re-submit a revised application. Whilst acknowledging that there had been a material change to the Association's financial position (namely match funding had been obtained), the Panel felt that allowing one organisation the opportunity to re-submit an application outside of the application timeframe would be unfair to other applicants, who might well be in a similar position. The Panel felt that the improvements made in the grants process, namely ensuring greater transparency and fairness, could be jeopardised. The Panel therefore did not support the re-submission of this application.
- 6.3 In light of the increasing number of applications and the high sums of money being sought from applicants, set against the increasing pressure on the Council's finances, the Panel recommended that a comprehensive review of the community grants process and eligibility criteria be reviewed in advance of the 2018 application deadline.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' COMMENTS

- 8.1 I am grateful for the thorough work carried out by the Task and Finish Group in scrutinising the applications received and I am pleased to congratulate the organisations whose bids have been successful. I support the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel's suggestion that the grants process, particularly the eligibility criteria be reviewed.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the grant awards as set out in **Appendix 1** be approved for inclusion in the 2018 Budget; and
- 9.2 That the recommendations of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel set out in 6.2 and 6.3 above be supported.

Further information:

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Background Papers:
Published documents

A	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	CODA	Annual operating costs, providing music for health and wellbeing purposes.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
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£298,750	£296,250	£2,500
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SUMMARY:

CODA is an independent music trust, which is developing its links with local schools and community groups. There have been successful projects in the New Milton area and the application seeks to ensure that further project work can be undertaken, with aim to facilitate creative music making for all ages and sectors of the community through high quality participatory music programmes, workshops and projects. The funding would support particular work with children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request (the same as the level of award granted last year) namely £2,500 be supported.

REASON: The Council will continue to support this organisation at the same funding level as previous years. The organisation primarily services the residents of a portion of the district given its geographical location.

B	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Yellow Door	To support the costs of support, outreach and education sessions

TOTAL COST OTHER FUNDS/INCOME RECOMMENDATION

£1,003,257 £931,343 £5,000

SUMMARY:

Yellow Door provides a range integrated specialist services to those who are at risk of or who have been affected by unwanted Sexual Experience or Domestic Abuse (DSA). This may include anything from rape, childhood sexual abuse, sexual assault to harassment, coercion or domestic abuse. The group covers the New Forest, Southampton and Eastleigh areas.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £5,000 be supported.

REASON: This organisation offers specialist sexual and domestic services to vulnerable residents within the District with the aim of ending sexual, domestic violence and abuse. The demand for this service, for New Forest residents has increased by 40% in the last year alone. This organisation offers value for money as this specialist service could not be provided by the Council.

C	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	New Forest Disability Information Service	Annual operating costs Advice to individuals and organisations

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
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£86,750	£57,500	£10,000
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SUMMARY:

The Service provides advice and information on disability issues with an emphasis on empowering individuals. With the consistent stream of changes to benefits and support arrangements for disabled people, demands on the Service are considerable.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £12,000 not be supported as this would be an increase in previous years grant awards and the Task & Finish Group were also aware that this organisation had received other funding from the Council. As such a grant award of £10,000 be supported.

REASON: This organisation offers vulnerable residents in the New Forest specialist advice which the Council does not currently have the resource to provide. The Council's benefit officers often refer individuals to this service for specialist advice, which is provided free of charge to the client.

D	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	hArt	To support the generic running costs and to deliver some targeted project work.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
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£46,000	£36,000	£6,000
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SUMMARY:

hArt are an art therapy charity that looks to provide support for the mental health needs of people of all ages and abilities. They organise workshops and projects across a range of artistic mediums, in the more remote areas of Hampshire (primarily the New Forest) where limited access to services and opportunities for social contact add to the increase in mental health issues by making loneliness and isolation a factor.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £10,000 not be recommended but that an award of £6,000 (the same as last year) be supported.

REASON: This is a relatively new organisation, and despite making significant progress in the growth of programmes provided and service users as well as establishing good partnership links, the organisation needs to expand to reach a wider audience within the New Forest. However, the Group felt that the programmes provided last year, made good use of the grant monies awarded in seeking to reach out to the most vulnerable residents, particularly elderly residents in the District.

E	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Forest Arts Centre	Annual operating cost Arts Centre and outreach activities

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£267,847	£250,847	£17,000

SUMMARY:

Forest Arts Centre provides a leading venue for live arts events and has an extensive outreach programme. The Centre is operated by Hampshire Cultural Trust. The backing of the Trust has brought about new projects and opportunities, and the centre programming has led to an increase of throughput and continues to be well supported.

Targeted work through regular session such as SCARF (Supporting Special Children and their Relatives and Friends) are very well established and project work, for example with young people around drug education; adults with learning disabilities, work with older people tackling issues such as dementia and social isolation through the Better Life Chance team, and with young people in deprived areas of the district, have produced excellent outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £17,000 be supported.

REASON: This organisation offers value for money through the numerous and extensive community based projects across the Forest particularly aimed at young people and hard to reach groups. In the last year, under new leadership, the organisation has made strong links with local clinical commissioning groups to offer outreach work to a wider audience within the community and has expanded programmes to tackle social issues such as social isolation.

F	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Forest Forge Theatre Company	Annual operating costs, Touring professional theatre and creative learning

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£142,772	£110,772	£28,000

SUMMARY:

Forest Forge has undergone a fundamental re-structure with the intention of providing creative learning and outreach activities at its core, whilst reflecting the changing funding climate. There is still professional touring theatre to communities across the New Forest but the emphasis is clearly on creative learning.

This organisation targets local residents to encourage participation in a variety of activities such as workshops; work experience and targeted outreach projects (e.g. the Gypsy/Roma/Traveller community). The Youth Theatre is based in Ringwood and is very popular. The Company has a particular reputation for the quality of its work with those with additional needs and provides opportunities for older people to tackle social isolation and improve cross-generational understanding.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request for £32,000 not be supported, but that an award of £28,000 be granted.

REASON: The organisation offers value for money through its diverse and wide ranging community outreach projects which benefit the wellbeing of many young people and families across the whole of the District. However, with continuing constraints on budgets, the Group recommends a slight reduction in the grant award, due to the fact that this is by far the highest grant award that was given to an arts organisation by the District Council.

G	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Turn Up For Fun	To run summer play provision in the North West of the district.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£8,000	£6,500	£0

SUMMARY:

TUFF is a community organisation with a constitution and three Trustees. They provide low cost, open access play sessions – including arts, craft and physical activities. Sessions are generally run during school holidays, but they also run after school sessions and festivals. They are applying for a grant as they strongly believe in the value and importance of free or very low cost community play, open to all ages. They often hear from parents and carers how hard it is to find activities for children and young people which are accessible to all, without the worry of expense, which also means that they can bring the whole family. TUFF would like to increase the number of sessions to meet increased demand and need, particularly, but not exclusively, in the summer holidays. The organisation has approached all parish and town council's for funding support however with small restricted budgets their contributions do not cover the full cost of provision. TUFF have explored wider funding support, as well as undertaking fundraising and accepting donations from various sources.

RECOMMENDATION: That the application for £6,500 not be granted.

REASON: The Applicant did not make it clear what precisely the grant award would be used for and where in the Forest the service would be provided. Given the localities and amount requested it was suggested that the organization contact the local Councillors who may be able to support the programme.

H	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Youth & Families Matter	To support the delivery of YFM as their focus has increasingly come upon tackling bigger community-based issues and working with individuals whose needs weren't typically covered by our Youth and Family Work programmes. Whilst this is a natural path for our work to expand and to maximise the benefit of the established best practices, systems and resources within YFM, we need to attract additional support to help this new Community Development programme succeed and translate projects into meaningful outcomes for beneficiaries.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£161,935	£157,195	£4,740

SUMMARY:

Youth and Families Matter (YFM) is a small registered charity that works from the heart of the community in Totton to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families whose lives are impacted by many forms of disadvantage, mental illness, serious illness, addiction or abuse. The application aims to support three projects that will assist the wellbeing of isolated, vulnerable and disadvantaged people under a new categorisation of Community Development work, namely: -

1. Community Breakfast (targeting social deprivation)
2. Refresh (targeting social deprivation)
3. TIDES (targeting depression and anxiety)

RECOMMENDATION: That the grant application for £4,740 be supported.

REASON: The organisation provides schemes that the Council would otherwise commission, to support vulnerable residents in the Community. Officers will hold quarterly meetings with this organization to review progress.

I	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	SPUD	This revenue grant will make a significant contribution, in partnership with the corporate sponsorship, to expand the role of our administrator/fundraiser and cover overheads.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£500,500	£494,500	£0

SUMMARY: The applicant currently does not receive any core funding, meaning all of the overheads and staff costs have to be derived solely from project activity. This puts considerable pressure on the organisation and makes developing new projects, exploring funding opportunities and taking a more active role in external networks and opportunities difficult. Some of the overhead costs (including part-time admin support of one day per week) have been met through corporate sponsorship. The organisation is putting in place strategies to move away from its current funding position, to develop a long-term, sustainable future. These strategies include deriving a rental income from some of their major capital projects.

These strategies will commence the latter part of 2018. In the meantime, SPUD requests support to ensure their continued viability and be able to explore a range of opportunities – both projects and funding. SPUD’s two co-directors are solely reliant on project funding. This revenue grant, in partnership with the corporate sponsorship, will assist to cover overheads and expand the role of the administrator and fundraiser. This additional admin support will be absolutely key next year, as both co-directors will be very focused on the re-development of ArtSway.

RECOMMENDATION: That the grant request of £6,000 be refused.

REASON: Members did not feel it appropriate to fund a request to support an admin role, not having any tangible benefits to residents of the District.

J	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Handy Trust	They are applying for a grant to run their school holiday project that is not already funded and we need to obtain funding for 10 weeks

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£74,790	£71,050	£3,740

SUMMARY:

The Handy Trust is a youth provision for children & young people aged 0 – 25 years old. They work with the whole community a 24/7 service at home, in school and in the community. Due to the economic climate they are working with children and young people from families who are experiencing poverty and hardship and this sometimes includes mental health, domestic violence and substance mis-use. They cover the Waterside area of the New Forest and have service level agreements with Fawley, Marchwood and Hythe & Dibden Parish Council. The Handy Trust are applying for a grant to run their school holiday project that is not already funded and they need to obtain funding for 10 weeks

RECOMMENDATION: That the application for £3,740 be supported.

REASON: This organisation provides much need support for families, often living in deprivation, during the school holidays. This reduces anti-social behavior from young people as well as offering free food to those children living in poverty.

K	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Families Matter	They have had a huge increase in demand for their services this year due to the closure of many Children's Centres and the reduction of CAMHS and Children's services. They need to take on more staff to work with families in distress. These workers need to be suitably trained and qualified and need to be paid.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
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£35,000	£40,000	£3,000
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SUMMARY: Families Matter is a small local charity based in Hythe which helps families in need in the Waterside area. They support parents through parenting classes and groups for parents and children with special needs, autism, mental health needs etc. We visit families in their own home and support them through a crisis with their children (ie separation, domestic violence, behavioural problems etc). They work closely local schools, supporting children in the transition to secondary. They have a puppet project that goes in to schools to deliver presentation on bullying, staying safe online recycling etc. They also run groups for people with dementia and their carers and for families with drug alcohol additions.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request for £6,000 not be recommended but a revised grant of £3,000 be supported.

REASON: This organisation provides valuable advice and support to the most vulnerable families and parents within the District. The grant would go some way to support further outreach work in the local community.

L	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Copythorne Play Area	Fund a playground in Copythorne Village

TOTAL COST

£50,122

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£27,122

RECOMMENDATION

£23,000

SUMMARY:

Friends of Copythorne Playground are looking to bring a playground to the local community, the largest parish in the district to not have a children's playground. With 237 children aged under 10 and 121 aged between 11-15 the parish has the demand, something which grows on a daily basis, due to the primary schools which have a catchment of 469 pupils.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £23,000 be supported.

REASON:

Copythorne village is one of the largest villages in the District which does not have a playground for its youngest residents. The village has approximately 334 resident children who would benefit both physically and mentally from the facility. The project is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. The scheme is sustainable and deliverable.

M	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Fawley Rugby Club	To install floodlights on the playing pitches

TOTAL COST
£65,640

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£37,000

RECOMMENDATION
£28,600

SUMMARY:

Since 2014 the club has grown in numbers of both playing and non-playing members. The junior numbers have increased from 25 to 140 whilst the seniors have increased from 32-50 players. They are working with the local community, schools and the RFU to get more people active through breakfast clubs, touch rugby, women and girls and walking rugby. Floodlights are necessary to ensure that these groups can continue training and participating throughout the winter.

RECOMMENDATION: That the full funding request be granted.

REASON:

The scheme is in line with the council priorities of improving the wellbeing of those who live in the district and would support those within an area of deprivation. The scheme will assist with the deficit of facilities within the district by allowing greater use of current facilities with secured funding from external sources most notably the National Governing Body of Rugby, reducing the cost impact on the district.

N	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Hythe Sea Scouts	Foreshore erosion protection

TOTAL COST

£80,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£40,000

RECOMMENDATION

£0

SUMMARY:

The headquarters of Hythe Seas Scouts Group (4th New Forest East) is based in Shore Road, Hythe. The site and the building that house the group is under threat from severe coastal erosion, the adjoining SSSI is disappearing at a rate of 1m pa. NFDC coastal defence team have identified options that can safeguard the site for between 10-20 years and the group are working to implement these. The site is NFDC owned.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £40,000 not be supported.

REASON:

The Council has an agreed policy that this part of the District's coastline will not be defended, and as the Sea Scouts already have sufficient funds to undertake the first phase of the foreshore works it was not felt appropriate to fund landscaping and fencing works to land that the Council itself owned, especially as Council resources had already been used to assist with the various applications to carry out these works. Therefore other funding streams should be explored within the Council.

O	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Marchwood Girl Guides	Building a new community building for girl guides and scouts

TOTAL COST

£429,800

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£394,000

RECOMMENDATION

£20,000

SUMMARY:

Create a new combined community/scout and guide hall for the village of Marchwood. This will replace a damp dilapidated hall on the recreation ground and reduce the reliance on other facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: That an award of £35,800 not be recommended by a revised grant of £20,000 be supported.

REASON:

The Group felt that this was a worthy project bringing together two organisations as the primary users of the facility with extension of further community use of the building. The group were keen to see the organisation complete their scheme and felt that the award would help them achieve this.

Q	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	SPUD	Redevelopment of ArtSway site to offer a creative hub and home to SPUD

TOTAL COST
£180,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME
£160,000

RECOMMENDATION
£0

SUMMARY:

The redevelopment and refurbishment of the ArtSway building as a new creative hub. Creating long term stability for SPUD's award winning programme for young people whilst developing a hub for the creative economy of the district contributing to the cultural and artistic life of the New Forest. This would support SPUD in their movement to become more less reliant on grant funding whilst fulfilling an identified gap in provision (Arts Council England considers the New Forest as an area of low engagement).

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £20,000 not be supported.

REASON:

This project would have limited impact of the whole of the community focusing on a limited number of individuals. Other sources of funding had yet to be obtained and the Council would be granting an award at risk.

P	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Totton & Eling Tennis Club	Installation of LED floodlights to decrease maintenance needs, increase energy efficiency and improve the financial viability of the facility

TOTAL COST

£25,000

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£18,500

RECOMMENDATION

£6,500

SUMMARY:

Totton and Eling Tennis Centre is a popular facility providing free and affordable tennis opportunities to around 500 regular users every week. The club have worked with the local schools, college the LTA and the district council to encourage more people to be active and take part in tennis. The outdated lights are inefficient and costly. The hope is to replace the system with an LED lighting system to ensure more reliability and less inefficiency in terms of electricity and light pollution.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of 23% of the total costs up to a maximum of £6,500 be supported, subject to Totton & Eling Town Council funding the remaining 75%.

REASON:

The Group recognised the excellent work that this organisation does in the local community for individuals of all ages and the importance of the facility within the district. The application was presented by the centre operator on behalf of the Town Council. The Group agreed to fund the programme supports the Corporate Plan.

R	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Sway Village Hall	Sway Village Hall cinema equipment

TOTAL COST

£5,450

OTHER FUNDS/INCOME

£0

RECOMMENDATION

£2,440

SUMMARY:

With regard to the Improvement Project, our main short-term challenge is to raise enough to install Cinema and Live Screenings and in the medium-term to open a Film Club and run a successful film and live screenings programme for the benefit of Sway & District residents. One challenge is to raise enough funds to install the Cinema, then to run the Cinema and finally to establish a skilled and resourceful group of volunteers to manage a Film Club. Friends of Sway Village Hall have taken on responsibilities in fund-raising and finance and one person is responsible for finding volunteers and managing film acquisition

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request for £5,440 not be recommended but a revised grant of £2,440 be supported as this would fund the initial 6 months of this project which would then become self-financing.

REASON:

This award would cover the first year's costs of the scheme and allow the programme to become self-sustaining moving forward in to future years. The scheme has been identified as a local need, supporting the local character of the village and enhancing social cohesion, reducing levels of social isolation and satisfying the corporate plan objectives.

S	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Totton Time Bank	To fund a part time broker and coordinator for the time bank that is a new venture.

TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDS/INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
£15,000	£0	£0

SUMMARY:

A Time Bank is a social and support mechanism for a community to exchange skills, experience and interests. Individuals and organisations earn time credit by giving practical help and support to others and spend their credits when they need some help themselves. There are 300 timebanks in the UK and each one is unique. As part of the time for Hampshire project run by Timebanking UK and HCC a workshop established a need and a working group that has identified the area of focus.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of £15,000 not be supported.

REASON:

The request was for 100% of the project cost which does not meet the grant eligibility criteria. In addition, no other sources of funding had been secured. Members were also aware that the Council's Residents Involvement Officer had pledged to give some financial support (£2,000) from the Council's housing budget with a view to assisting isolated tenants within the Totton area. The Council would, through this contact, assist the organisation to build contacts so that they are able to secure funding from other sources in the first instance.

T	APPLICANT:	REASON FOR APPLICATION:
	Community First New Forest	a) Annual operating cost - Voluntary sector support and Volunteer Centre b) Operating the Night Stop programme c) Contribution towards the Healthy Walks

TOTAL COST	OTHER INCOME	RECOMMENDATION
(a) £112,950	£56,959	£40,000
(b) £69,000	£39,000	£15,000
(c) £6,330	£1,500	£2,500

SUMMARY:

- a) CFNF provides support across the whole of the voluntary sector in the New Forest. This involves activities such as: DBS checks; funding advice; assistance with setting up and operating groups. With its work in training and operating the volunteer centre/volunteer placement, it also contributes to routes to work. It also acts as a representative voice for the sector and is involved in many technical working groups and strategic bodies across the district. Community First New Forest also works in partnership with statutory organisations to deliver a range of projects.
- b) Night stop is a programme which helps to tackle homelessness in those aged 16-24 by emergency overnight accommodation with local volunteers, and support in to longer term housing.
- c) The Healthy Walks programme is a partnership between the National Park, NFDC and Community First New Forest which sees the New Forest walking for health programme administrated and volunteer walk leaders trained and supported to deliver walks at various locations across the district.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- (a) That a grant award of £56,000 not be recommended but a grant of £40,000 be supported as in the previous year;
- (b) That a grant award of £30,000 not be supported but £15,000 be supported for the first 6 months of the programme. Housing Officers would work with the organisation to shape the future service so that it meets local need following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017; and
- (c) That the grant request of £2,500 be supported.

REASON:

Members were aware that internal staffing changes, at a senior level had resulted in a reduction of the payroll. As such the previous years' grant award was felt appropriate for the forthcoming year.

The Healthy Walks programme, where the Council was the primary funder, remained a popular programme, key to the council's health promotion and was good value for money.

The numbers of overnight stays secured through the Nightstop programme had reduced significantly from previous years owing to safeguarding issues. There was a need to change the provision of the service, so that suitable accommodation for the most vulnerable residents was secured.