

Grants Panel

Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

Author: Jayne Bolton

Telephone: 01235 422437

E-mail: Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk

Cabinet member responsible: Elizabeth Gillespie

Tel: 01865 341398

E-mail: elizabethgillespie@southandvale.gov.uk

To: Grants Panel

DATE: 5 January 2016

AGENDA ITEM

Revenue Grants 2017-18 to 2020-21

Recommendation

- (a) To consider the revenue grant applications for the next round of four year revenue grants and make recommendations on the awards to be made to cabinet.

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the revenue grant applications received for the next round of four year funding and make recommendations on the awards to be made to cabinet.

Strategic Objectives

2. Under the 'sustainable communities and well-being' corporate priority in our 2016-2020 corporate plan we commit to support community groups through our grant schemes.

Background

3. The cabinet member for grants approved a new policy for revenue grants 2017-18 to 2020/21 on 8 July 2016, a copy of the policy is attached at appendix one of this report.
4. The head of corporate strategy and the cabinet member for grants shortlisted the stage one applications and invited 23 of the applicants to submit further applications to stage two of the grant scheme for consideration.

5. One organisation decided not to make an application for stage two and we received 22 applications in total.
6. Under the terms of the policy the grants panel is asked to consider these applications and make recommendations to cabinet for determination.

Items for consideration

7. Officers evaluated and scored each of stage two applications against the criteria within the policy (attached at appendix one) and a summary of their recommendations are detailed in appendix two of this report. The officers are recommending awards totalling £1,062,703 which could be met from the draft base budget (as detailed in the financial implications of this report).
8. The detailed evaluation reports and scoring are attached at appendix three of this report. This appendix also includes four year budget information and development plans for each organisation that made an application.
9. The grants panel should note that a two x weighting has been applied to the corporate priorities section to ensure that organisations who help us to meet our own priorities score more highly.
10. The organisations provided detailed measurable targets as part of the application process together with future plans for any organisational change and these will form the basis of any future grant monitoring.

Financial Implications

11. The revenue grant budget in 2016-17 is £434,285 and this figure is included in the councils grants draft base budget for 2017-18. An annual saving proposal of £15,000 is likely to be taken from this base budget figure reflecting the intention to close the young achievers scheme.
12. If this saving is taken the budget over a four year period is £1,677,140.
13. The cabinet member for grants has recently approved a four year grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau of £614,432. This grant has reduced by five per cent year on year due to efficiency savings. The savings are included in the budget allocation for other grants. This means there is an available budget of £1,062,708 to allocate to this round of four year revenue grants.

Legal Implications

14. The council will use its general powers under Chapter 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to offer this funding. Each organisation we fund will have to enter into a legal grant agreement that will include annual monitoring targets (agreed with the grants officer). There will be a requirement to submit their accounts each year for consideration by the grants officer before each years grant is released.
15. Specialist legal advice has been received to ensure the revenue grant policy complies with State Aid regulations.

Risks

16. There are risks associated with funding voluntary organisations for a four year period. In order to mitigate these risks officers have reviewed each organisation's financial position and any concerns are shown on the officer evaluations. In addition, annual monitoring reviews will be held before each year of funding is released.

Conclusion

9. The grants panel is asked to consider the officer evaluation reports including the scores and the recommended awards. To hear presentations from the applicants and make recommendations to cabinet on the level of the awards from the available budget over a four year period.