

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
GRANTS BOARD – 9 OCTOBER 2017
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS (ANNUAL GRANTS)

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Eight applications from voluntary groups have been received for Annual Community Grants (exempt Appendix A at Agenda item 9 in the Part II private and confidential section of the meeting).

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of the Grants Board are asked to consider the Annual Community Grant applications (Appendix A) and recommend the Cabinet to allocate the funding in accordance with the Council's priorities and criteria.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 It was agreed in 2016/17 as part of the budget setting that for a 3 year period, Citizens Advice Bureau will have a ring fenced budget of £95,000.
- 3.2 Members of the Grants Board are asked to decide how the provisional grants budget of £103,270 will be allocated between the Annual Grants and Small Community Grants for 2018/19.
- 3.3 It was agreed in 2016/17 as part of the budget setting for 2017/18 that the Small Community Grants will have a ring fenced budget of £24,000. Members of Grants Board will need to decide is they would like to continue this ring fenced amount to 2018/19.
- 3.4 If members agree to continue the ring-fenced amount of £24,000 for Small Community Grants this leaves a remaining budget of £79,270 to be allocation for Annual Community Grants for the financial year 2018/19.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 Of the 2018/19 budget is £103,270 for Annual and Small community grants, once removing the ring fenced sum of £24,000 for the Small Grant Budget this will leave an available budget of £79,270.
- 5.2 Annual Community Grant applications total £150,163 exceeding budget for Annual Community grants by £70,893.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 There are risks related to providing grants to voluntary organisations in that there is the possibility that the charity could go into administration and as such the funding would be lost. There is also the possibility that organisations do not spend the grant provided on the agreed projects or costs as per their applications.
- 6.2 The risks are mitigated as much as possible as all successful grant applicants sign up to a service level agreement between WHBC and themselves. This means that each successful grant has to provide information and evidence on where the funding was spent.

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 8 In complying with the Prevent duty Local Authority's need to ensure that publicly owned resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.

9 Procurement Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are none arising from this report.

10 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 11.1 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Grants Board looks to support projects which help achieve Council's Corporate Priorities. Applications for community grants need to contribute to at least one of the following:
1. Maintain a safe and healthy community;
 2. Protect and enhance the environment;
 3. Meet the borough's housing needs;
 4. Help build a strong local economy;
 5. Engage with our communities and provide value for money.

12 Equality and Diversity

- 12.1 I confirm that an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out of the Council's Community Grant policy. In addition, all applications submit a Diversity monitoring form along with stating in their applications that they are committed to equal opportunities and have an equalities policy in place.

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