

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 9TH JANUARY 2024
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PLACE

RECOMMENDATION OF GRANTS BOARD – ANNUAL GRANTS

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Grants Board met on 6th December 2023 to consider applications to the 2024/25 annual grants scheme. This report sets out the recommendations from the Grants Board relating to the allocation of funding.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees the recommendations from Grants Board in relation to the applications for annual grants for 2024/25 as set out in table 3.2, subject to Council budget-setting.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council previously sought applications to its Annual Grants application process for the 2024/25 financial year. Individual organisations were invited to apply for up to £20,000 of funding to support their activities, with a total of £73,000 available, subject to 2024/25 budget approval.
- 3.2 On 6th December 2023, the Grants Board met to consider the applications. After considered deliberation, Members determined that Annual Community Grants should be paid as follows:

| Organisation | Total applied for | Grant allocation |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17th WGC Rangers | £500 | £500 |
| Crusaders Skate Hockey Club | £3,305 | £0 |
| First Garden Cities Homes | £11,960 | £0 |
| First People Housing CIC | £16,000 | £0 |
| Forever Young People | £17,760 | £0 |
| H'arts in Mind | £6,000 | £2,000 |
| Hatfield Food Bank | £5,000 | £5,000 |
| Herts Disability Sports Foundation | £15,012 | £0 |
| I Picture This | £6,720 | £0 |
| Ludwick Family Centre | £10,900 | £0 |
| One YMCA | £19,506 | £0 |
| Panshanger FC Club | £20,000 | £0 |
| Pets In Need | £20,000 | £0 |
| Red Kite | £20,000 | £7,500 |
| Resolve | £19,670 | £15,000 |
| Sowing Seeds Family Club | £7,630 | £3,500 |
| Sporting Aid CIC | £7,000 | £3,500 |

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|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Sporting Inspirations CIC | £8,740 | £6,000 |
| Together for WGC | £500 | £0 |
| Welwyn Hatfield CVS | £20,000 | £10,000 |
| Welwyn Rugby Football Club | £20,000 | £0 |
| Welwyn Hatfield Womens Refuge | £20,000 | £20,000 |
| Total | £276,203 | £73,000 |

3.3 The Grants Board noted that the strength and breadth of applications resulted in difficult decisions being made, and unsuccessful applicants will be signposted to the small community grants scheme, where some or all of their application may be relevant.

3.4 Further information relating to the reasons for these allocations can be found in the [draft minutes from the meeting held on 6th December 2023](#).

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

4.1 A Service Level Agreement is entered into between the council and each successful grant applicant.

5 Financial Implication(s)

5.1 The Annual Grants budget forecast to be included in the 2024/25 budget is £73,000. Grants Board have not exceeded this potential allocation in considering the applications put forward. Confirmation of the funding will be agreed through the 2024/25 Council budget setting process.

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 There is a risk related to providing grants to voluntary organisations in that there is the possibility that the organisation 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 through the application process, where information has been provided about the organisation, its governance and financial structures and the reason it has applied for funding. All successful grant applicants sign up a service level agreement with the council which sets out the terms of the grant and also what information is to be provided to monitor the outcomes. The information provided includes evidence on where the funding was spent.

Risk Score Likelihood Low; Impact Medium. Overall risk score Low.

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

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

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications. The funds will be issued as grant payments.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 No climate change implications apply.

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 10.1 No Human Resource implications apply in this case.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 11.1 Providing grants to community organisations for the benefit of Welwyn Hatfield residents assists the council in meeting its objectives to improve the health and wellbeing of the borough.

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 12.1 All successful organisations are required to actively promote the Council when market their event or project.
- 12.2 The Council will also put out a press release detailing the successful applicants and highlighting some of the projects/initiatives that the Council is supporting through this round of Grants.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 13.1 The subject of this report is linked to several of the council's recently adopted priorities, and part of the consideration of applications was related to this.

14 Equality and Diversity

- 14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.
- 14.2 The applications received included evidence of the organisations' commitment to equality and diversity where relevant to the proposal.

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| Name of author | Chris Barnes |
| Title | Executive Director (Place) |
| Date | 08/12/2023 |