

Adur County Local Committee

Community Initiative Funding – Urgent Action

13 August 2019

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Ref: A04 (19/20)

Key Decision:
No

Part I

Electoral Divisions:
Sompting and North
Lancing; and
Shoreham South

Recommendation

That the Committee considers the two applications to the Community Initiative Fund (Micro Fund), as set out in Appendix A, and awards £750.00 and £552.11 respectively.

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 The Community Initiative Fund (CIF) is a County Local Committee (CLC) administered fund that provides assistance to local community projects. Bids should show evidence of projects which can demonstrate community backing, make a positive impact on people's wellbeing and support The West Sussex Plan.
- 1.2 The terms and conditions, eligibility criteria and overall aim of the CIF have been agreed by all CLC Chairmen and these can be found on the County Local Committee pages of the West Sussex County Council website using the following link:
http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/your_council/meetings_and_decision-making/county_local_committees/community_initiative_funding.aspx
- 1.3 For projects to be considered for funding they must upload their project idea to the West Sussex Crowd (www.westsussexcrowd.org.uk) funding platform and pitch to the Community Initiative Fund.
- 1.4 Effective from 8 February 2019, the County Council's Community Initiative Fund budget was reduced from £280,000 per year to £140,000 per year, following a decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities. It was approved that this proposal be included in the Governance Committee review of County Local Committees with implementation of savings to be delayed until the review has been completed. Therefore, it was agreed that the 2019/20 CIF budget is provisionally reduced to £140,000, subject to the outcome of the Governance Committee review of CLCs on 25 November 2019.
- 1.5 Effective from 12 June 2019, the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities took a decision to introduce a Micro Fund following feedback received from groups relating to small projects. Applications to the Micro Fund are intended for projects with a total cost of up to £750 as an

alternative to crowdfunding and pitching to CIF via West Sussex Crowd. As with crowdfunding pitches, Micro Fund applications are considered the CLC meetings for a decision. CLCs were advised to allocate up to 30% of their budget to Micro Fund applications, although this is discretionary.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the two applications to the Community Initiative Fund, as set out in Appendix A, and awards £750.00 and £552.11 respectively.
- 2.2 Pledges can be considered in the preparation and fundraising stage. When considering pitches in the preparation stage, decisions are subject to the applicant receiving full verification from locality and starting fundraising by the end of the financial year.

3. Resources

- 3.1 For the 2019/20 financial year, Adur CLC had a total of £10,000.00 available for allocation, of this £5,578.00 is still available for allocation. Details of awards made in the current program and previous financial year are included in Appendix B.
- 3.2 There are two Micro Fund applications for consideration by the Committee with a total amount requested of £1,302.11.

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Before a project can be added to the West Sussex Crowd it must be eligible for the Spacehive platform, and then before beginning crowd funding must be verified by Locality. This involves inspecting the project to make sure it's viable and legitimate. The Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the local County Councillor, will preview all projects that have then gone on to pitch to the Community Initiative Fund to ensure they meet the criteria.
- 4.2 District and Borough Council colleagues are consulted on whether applicants have applied to any funds they administer. In addition, some CLCs have CIF Sub Groups that preview pitches and make recommendations to the CLC.

5. Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 There is a risk in allocating any funding that the applicant will not spend some or all of it or that it might be spent inappropriately. Therefore, the terms and conditions associated with CIF provide for the County Council to request the return of funds.
- 5.2 Projects that do not reach 95% of their funding target on The West Sussex Crowd within their project timescales, will not receive any funds.

Any pledges made to unsuccessful projects will therefore be returned to the CLC CIF allocation and be detailed in Appendix B.

6. Other Options Considered

- 6.1 The Committee do have the option to defer or decline pitches but must give valid reasons for doing so. If they defer a project they need to take into account the timescales for the project and whether a deferral would allow the CLC to pitch at the following meeting.

7. Equality Duty

- 7.1 Democratic Services Officers consider the outcome intentions for each pitch. It is considered that for the following pitches, the intended outcomes would:

- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The CLC in considering any pitch should be alert to the need to consider any equality implications arising from the bid or the way the money is to be used if any are indicated in the information provided.

8. Social Value

- 8.1 The Community Initiative Fund's eligibility criteria requires applicants to explain how their project will support one or more of the County Council's priorities as set out in The West Sussex Plan.

9. Crime and Disorder Act Implications

- 9.1 The applications for decision contain projects that will positively benefit the community and contribute toward the County Council's obligations to reduce crime and disorder and promote public safety in section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

10. Human Rights Act Implications

- 10.1 The County Council's positive obligations under the Human Rights Act have been considered in the preparation of these recommendations but none of significance emerges.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact: Jack Caine – 0330 222 8941

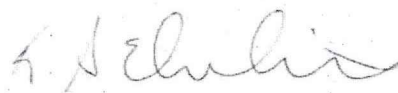
Background Papers: crowdfunding pitches are available to view at:

www.westsussexcrowd.org.uk

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=494>

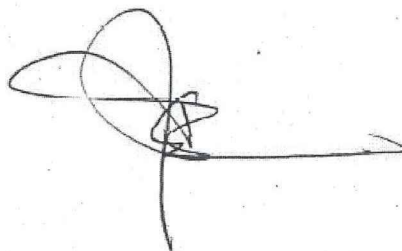
<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=611>

Agreed



Katharine Eberhart

Director of Finance and Support
Services



David Simmons

Chairman
Adur County Local Committee

Action Authorised



Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Date

16/08/19

Micro Fund applications

There are two Micro Fund applications totalling £1,302.11 for consideration:

396/A – Beach garden development (The Shoreham Beach School Parent, Teachers and Friends Association):

Shoreham Beach Primary School is a small, single-form entry primary school with limited outdoor space for its 210 pupils. The school's project involves revitalising the beach run-down beach garden adjacent to the school and re-instate the after-school gardening club.

Member: Kevin Boram

Amount requested: £750.00 – towards purchasing child-height planters and wicker dens for outdoor reading.

399/A – Welcome to the Morris Side! (Sompting Village Morris):

Sompting Village Morris is celebrating its 40th anniversary and has recognised a need to attract younger members to ensure the future of the dancing group. The majority of the Side's members are aged 70+ and the group has identified a recruitment strategy to encourage young people out in the community to try and take up Morris dancing.

Member: George Barton

Amount requested: £552.11 – including contribution towards civic venue hire for 'Have A Go' sessions open to the public, purchasing three first aid kits and the production of recruitment flyers.