

**Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee**

**Community Initiative Funding – Urgent Action**

**25 February 2020**

**Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

**Ref: EA05(19/20)**

**Key Decision:  
No**

**Part I**

**Electoral Divisions:  
All in Eastern Arun  
CLC area**

**Recommendation**

That the application to the Community Initiative Fund (West Sussex Crowd), as set out in Appendix A, be considered and awarded £500 accordingly.

**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](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](http://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 (decision reference SSC8 18/19). 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 (decision reference SSC02 19/20). 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 application for Community Initiative Funding as set out in Appendix A be considered for a grant.
- 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, Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee had a total of £12,000.00 available for allocation, of this £4,932.47 is still available for allocation.
- 3.2 There is one West Sussex Crowd application for consideration by the Committee. The Committee has previously pledged £1500 to this project at their last meeting. The project is now nearing the end of its crowdfunding deadline and is still in need of funds. The chairman and local member have therefore agreed to pledge a further £500 to the project to help them reach their target.

## **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.

## **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:** Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer – 0330 222 2540

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Current pitch for consideration by the Committee

**Background Papers:**

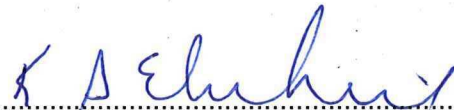
Decision SSC8 18/19 -

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

Decision SSC02 19/20 -

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

Agreed

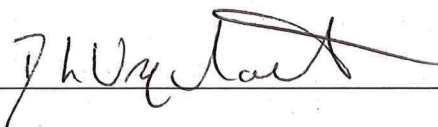


**Katharine Eberhart**

Director of Finance and Support  
Services

**Deborah Urquhart**

Chairman  
Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee



Action Authorised



**Tony Kershaw**

Director of Law and Assurance

Date

3/03/20

**West Sussex Crowd**

The following project has pitched via the West Sussex Crowd:

**435/JEAAC – Fare Divide, 'Littlehampton Community Fridge van hire',  
£3358.00 – towards the cost of hiring a refrigerated van to collect more  
excess food for redistribution.**

**<https://www.spacehive.com/littlehampton-community-fridge-van-hire>**

Joint Eastern Arun Area County Local  
Committee

Support: Monique Smart  
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Tel: 033 022 22540

CLC Development Team  
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West Sussex  
PO19 1RQ  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)



 [www.facebook.com/aruntalkwithus/](https://www.facebook.com/aruntalkwithus/)

## Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee Community Initiative Fund application



**CLC Reference:** 435/JEAAC

**Local Councillor:** Ian Buckland

**Status:** Fundraising Stage

Overfunding enabled (refer to 'what we'll deliver' section)

**Crowdfunding Target:** £1,881.00

**Project cost:** £3,381.00

**Project Title:** Littlehampton Community Fridge Van Hire!

### About:

We need to hire a refrigerated van while getting funding for our own van to increase the amount of food saved from landfill and make it available to the local community. Littlehampton Community Fridge has saved 3.5 tonnes of food from landfill in the first 3 months, which has then been available to anyone to come and take items from our Community Fridge located in Littlehampton Library. We are now looking to expand our operation by being able to collect additional excess food and store and transport the food safely from our donors to the fridge. We are looking to hire a van for a period of time while we apply for funding for our own van.

**Project Delivery Manager:** Fare Divide

### About me:

Fare Divide's vision is to save perishable foodstuffs from landfill, and to inspire healthier communities by forging give-and-take partnerships making available surplus food to all without judgement and stigma. Basically, we want to help open Community Fridges in West Sussex, having successfully opened the first Community Fridge in the Community

Fridge Network in Littlehampton in 2019. We do this by collecting excess food from businesses and supermarkets, allotments and making it available to anyone to use, for free.

Website: <http://www.faredivide.org.uk>

**Why we're pitching for a pledge:**

This project has already hit the ground running, and hiring the van will help save more food from landfill and feed more of the community.

**What we'll deliver:**

- Save at least 1 tonne more excess food a month from going to landfill

**How any extra funds raised from overfunding will be spent:**

- To secure a lock-up and another refrigerator/freezer to store food off-site
- To enable a more reliable flow of food to the fridge enabling us to handle and store more food, and make food available to more of the community.

**Why it's a great idea:**

Free, good food for the community. Helps businesses become zero waste. Better for the environment that good food is not wasted.

**Steps to get it done:**

- Hire a refrigerated van
- Work with excess food producers to collect more excess food