

Report to Joint Western Arun Area Committee

February 2021

Community Initiative Funding

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division(s): All in CLC area

Summary

The Community Initiative Fund (CIF) is a County Local Committee (CLC) administered fund that provides assistance to local community projects. Each CLC is asked to consider the pitches and applications received for projects within their CLC area at each meeting.

Recommendations

That the following Community Initiative Funding awards be made:

600/JWAAC – Southdowns Folk Festival, 'Festival Music Workshops', £750.00 - to pay for the workshop tutors' services and the cost of materials for the weekend event scheduled 17-19 September 2021.

604/JWAAC – Bognor Regis Town Youth Football Club, 'Replenish outdated first aid kits/supplies and upgrade them with COVID-19 and PPE products', £749.40 - to purchase new FA-approved first aid kits, digital thermometers and hand sanitiser.

613/JWAAC – Friends of Horsemere Green, 'Horsemere Green Wildflower Meadow', £745.54 - to purchase materials for ground preparation works in creating a wildflower meadow.

That the following Community Initiative Funding awards be declined:

615/JWAAC – Ambush Veteran Adventure Training & Woodland Management CIC, to purchase equipment for delivering outdoor sporting activities. The Committee supports the idea, however the application did not include any evidence of how this project would benefit the residents of the JWAAC area for which this fund is specifically for.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 All applications for Community Initiative Funding should show evidence that the projects has community backing, makes a positive impact on people's wellbeing and supports [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](#).
- 1.3 There are two routes by which to apply for CIF, The West Sussex Crowd and the Micro Fund. For projects with a total cost of over £750 they must upload their project idea to the [West Sussex Crowd](#) funding platform and pitch to the Community Initiative Fund. For projects with a total cost of up to £750, applications must be made to the Micro Fund. This is an [online](#) application form. CLCs are advised to allocate up to 30% of their budget to Micro Fund applications, although this is discretionary.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the pitches and/or applications for Community Initiative Funding as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 West Sussex Crowd 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 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 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 group to pitch at the following meeting.

4 Consultation and engagement

- 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 crowdfunding 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 pitch to the Community Initiative Fund to ensure they meet the criteria. Democratic Services may also seek advice from the relevant Communities Officer for any knowledge of the organisations applying for funds.
- 4.2 For Micro Fund applications the Democratic Services Officer will liaise with the local County Councillor to ensure they are in support of the project and advise if it meets criteria. Democratic Services may also seek advice from the relevant Communities Officer for any knowledge of the organisations applying for funds. Applications to the Micro Fund are also checked by the Finance Team to ensure that those organisations applying have a sound financial set up.
- 4.3 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 Finance

- 5.1 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. The outcome of the Governance Committee review of CLCs on 25 November 2019 supported the reduction of the CIF.
- 5.2 For the 2020/21 financial year, Joint Western Arun Area Committee had a total of £14,000.00 available for allocation, of this **£4,356.00** is still available for allocation. Details of awards made in the current program and previous financial year are included in Appendix B.
- 5.3 There is one crowdfunding pitch and three Micro Fund applications for consideration by the Committee, with a total project cost of £17,585.40.
- 5.4 The pitch is available to view on the [West Sussex Crowd](#) and also outlined in Appendix B along with links to the application(s).

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Allocating any funding that the applicant will not spend some or all of - or that it might be spent inappropriately.	The terms and conditions associated with CIF provide for the County Council to request the return of funds. They also ask each applicant to complete an evaluation form or impact report to show how the funds have been used. Annual spot checks are carried out to follow-up on those not completed.
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.

7 Policy alignment and other matters taken into account

Equality Duty and human rights assessment

- 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.

- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.

Climate Change

- 7.4 The CLC is asked to consider the impact of each application on climate change and give support to applications that contribute to the Council's stated ambition to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and those that support our green economy.

Crime and Disorder Act Implications

- 7.5 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.

Public Health

- 7.6 The applications for decision contain projects that will positively benefit the community and contribute toward the County Council's obligations to enhance the general health and wellbeing of its communities and residents.

Social Value

- 7.7 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](#).

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

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Appendices

Appendix A – Current applications for consideration by the Committee

Appendix B - Summary of awards made in 2020/21 and 2019/20

Background Papers:

[Micro Fund applications](#)

[West Sussex Crowd pitch](#)

Agreed

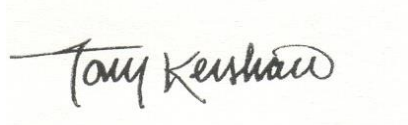
Katharine Eberhart

Director of Finance and Support
Services

Cllr David Edwards

Chairman
Joint Western Arun Area Committee

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tony Kershaw", is centered within a light yellow rectangular box. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Date 25/01/21