

North Mid Sussex County Local Committee

Community Initiative Funding

25 June 2019

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Ref: NMS03 (19/20)
Key Decision: No
Part I
Electoral Divisions: All in NMS CLC Area

Recommendation

- i) That the Committee considers the pitches made to the Community Initiative Funding as set out in Appendix A and pledge funding accordingly.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

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](#).

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

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.

2. Proposal

That the Committee considers the pitches to the Community Initiative Funding as set out in Appendix A.

The North Mid Sussex CLC will only consider projects that are actively fundraising.

3. Resources

For the 2019/20 financial year, North Mid Sussex CLC has a total of £16,800.00* available for allocation. Details of awards made in the current program and previous financial year are included in Appendix B.

There is one new pitch for consideration by the Committee.

The pitch is in fundraising stage with a total project cost of £7,158.00.

This is outlined in Appendix A and can also be viewed at:
www.westsussexcrowd.org.uk

CIF is intended for applications up to £5,000. However, the North Mid Sussex CLC will only consider pledges over £2,500 in exceptional circumstances. The size of the pledge will depend on the size of the project, how it delivers against fund criteria, the impact it will have, and the buy in from the community.

* [Following the Cabinet Member decision in January](#), the Community Initiative Fund has been reduced subject to the outcome of the governance CLC review reporting in late September 2019.

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

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.

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

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.

Projects that do not reach 95% of their funding target on The West Sussex Crowd within the 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

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

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

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

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

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.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Current pitch for consideration by the Committee

Appendix B - Awards made in 2018/19 and 2017/18

Background Papers: Pitches are available to view on www.westsussexcrowd.org.uk