

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Executive

19th September 2023

Community Fund Grant Scheme

Portfolio Holder:	Housing and Inclusion Cllr Lisa Finan-Cooke
Strategic Director/Head of Service	Sally Kipping – Head of HR, Performance & Communications
Report Author:	Renée France – Community Development Manager
PH Sign off:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Wards Affected:	All

Summary and purpose

To consider grant applications to the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme received by 30th June 2023

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that up to £1,500 be awarded to Bagshot Business Association to support the Annual Halloween Bagshot Big Bash event;

1. Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 Full details and Information on the Community Fund Grant scheme is provided on the Council's website and articles are regularly published in the Council's Heath scene magazine promoting recent successful awards.
- 1.2 This scheme provides grants of up to £25,000 to assist local 'not for profit organisations' with the delivery of community projects. Total project costs of up to £2,000 can attract 75% funding and total project costs over £2,001 can attract up to 50% funding from the scheme.
- 1.3 The total amount requested from the recommended application is £1,500 and that this is awarded from an existing reserve of £62,222. No payments are made until after evidence is submitted that the work is completed.
- 1.4 Two other applications have been received but are not yet ready for recommendation to the Executive due to outstanding enquiries. These are therefore deferred and will be presented at a later date.

2. Bagshot Business Association

- 2.1 The Association was established in 2009 and is open to all businesses in Bagshot. The Association aims to promote Bagshot and businesses in Bagshot and to provide opportunities for networking and mutual business benefit and support. The Association has a formal constitution. Membership currently stands at 30 businesses who each pay £30 per year for membership of the Association and all current and new businesses in Bagshot are offered the opportunity to join.
- 2.2 The Association are seeking assistance in funding their annual Halloween Event. The association anticipates the total event costs to be £3,000 and the club are seeking up to £1,500 from the Councils Community Fund grant scheme to support traffic management and insurance. A further application for funding has been made to Windlesham Parish Council for £1,000 to cover provision of street trading licence, First Aid Support and entertainment. A decision in relation to this application has not yet been made. The remaining funds will come from Bagshot Business Association reserves. For past events, The Association has applied to Windlesham Parish Council for funding support and has subsidised the remaining costs, however the Association ran a Coronation event earlier this year which depleted their available funds for their remaining usual programme of events.
- 2.3 This is a popular local event which has been run previously and the Association anticipates footfall on the High Street of up to 1,000 people over a three-hour period. Whilst Community Fund Grants are intended for one off project costs, and this project has been run in previous years, the Association used existing funds to provide a one-off Coronation event earlier in the year and it is therefore suggested that this grant is used to support the running of the Halloween Event in recognition of the special circumstances of a Coronation year and the positive impact on the community and businesses in the local area.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

Bagshot Business Association

- 3.1 A suggestion of £1,500 has been made in relation to this application, which is reflective of the local benefits provided in and around Bagshot and the wider community, and the reduced reserves due to the Coronation event held earlier this year. This application links to the Council's Five-Year Strategy in the area of Health & Wellbeing and the priorities around nurturing a strong sense of community across the borough and promoting a programme of community events. There will also be impact on the Economy and the Council's objectives around supporting existing businesses and attracting new ones as increased footfall from visitors to the event will impact on the income and profile of local businesses.

4. Proposal and Alternative Options

4.1 The Executive has the option to:

- i) Fund the organisations in line with the recommendations.
- ii) Fund the organisations applications at a greater or lesser percentage of their requested sums.
- iii) Not fund any of the organisations.

5. Contribution to the Council's Five-Year Strategy

5.1 Health and Quality of Life:

5.1.1 The health and quality of life of all the Borough's residents is very much at the core of the services that the Council provides to its residents understanding that having a warm, safe and secure home, and a healthy, attractive environment which is key for improving health outcomes and our residents' quality of life.

5.1.2 The Council wants to ensure communities have the infrastructure and accessibility to meet the needs of a changing and growing population. Supporting the development of attractive, sustainable and vibrant communities for people to live, work and enjoy. We will also take a positive approach to supporting those who are most vulnerable.

5.1.3 To nurture the strong sense of community across the whole borough, fostering a sense of respect and consideration. We aim to ensure everyone can access a safe, quality home to meet their needs.

5.1.4 We will take a positive approach to supporting all sectors of our community, including those who are most vulnerable. We will promote active and healthy lives for all and a rich programme of cultural and community events.

5.2 Economy:

5.2.1 Surrey Heath Borough is home to a diverse range of successful businesses with high levels of employment in both our rural and urban areas. As we look beyond the Covid-19 pandemic it is vital we restore the vibrancy of our high streets, village and community centres and key employment areas, retain and develop our existing business base and make Surrey Heath a place where new businesses want to be located.

5.2.2 Investment in local infrastructure is key to the economic success and jobs for the borough as a whole and the health and quality of life of local residents.

6. Resource Implications

6.1 The Council funds a number of voluntary organisations which either work in partnership with the Council or can perform functions on the Council's behalf.

7. Section 151 Officer Comments:

7.1 None

8. Legal and Governance Issues

8.1 No matters arising.

9. Monitoring Officer Comments:

9.1 All Community Fund Grant awards are subject to a standard offer conditions letter with confirmation being required prior to payment.

10. Other Considerations and Impacts

Environment and Climate Change

10.1 No matters arising.

Equalities and Human Rights

10.2 No matters arising

Risk Management

10.3 No matters arising.

Community Engagement

10.4 No matters arising.

Annexes none

Background Papers: Applications.