

EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Report of the Assistant Local Area Manager on behalf of the Eastleigh Community Grants Panel

Recommendation

- (1) It is recommended that the following grants be approved, subject to the conditions as referred to in Appendix 1:

Eastleigh Youth and Community Trust £1,500

Youth Options £1,000

Sensecere CIC £993

MHA Communities Eastleigh £1,000

SeeAbility £1,620

ARK Eastleigh £250

Eastleigh Borough and Romsey Mencap £750

Eastleigh and District NCT £2,500

Summary

The Grants Panel recommends that grants be allocated to local organisations operating in the Eastleigh, Allbrook and Velmore area for 2020/21.

Statutory Powers

S. 1 Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.

Strategic Implications

1. The recommendations in this report support the Council's approach to localism (Local First) by allocating devolved resources to meet local needs. The recommendations align with Corporate Plan objectives of Tackling

Deprivation, Enabling Healthier Lifestyles and Wellbeing, Supporting an Excellent Environment, Improving Town and Local Centres, Increasing Provision and Ensuring a more diverse mix of Housing, and Enabling the Right Skills and Employment mix.

Introduction

2. This Committee has allocated £13,000 (£3,000 of which was carried over from the underspend from last financial year) for a community grant budget to fund grants to local organisations. This year we particularly welcomed applications that; support young people's mental health, reduce social isolation, promote neighbourhood connections, green our streets and visual or performance art applications, whilst also recognising the huge impact that Covid-19 is having on our communities. 8 different grant applications were received with a total value of £10,113.
3. The grant panel comprises Councillors Campbell, Tyson-Payne and Bourne and it convened to review the applications on 6th January this year.

The Panel's decisions

4. The Grants Panel sought to ensure the available funding was spread throughout the three local wards.
5. The Panel also considered the objectives of the organisations, the numbers attending; whether they were from the Local Area; the total cost of the project and whether funding was or could be sought from elsewhere. The applications were also assessed against the following criteria: including business plans, details on how the grant application meets Eastleigh Borough Council's priorities (Green Borough, Healthy Communities and Prosperous Place) and confirmation that the applications were not for day to day running costs.
6. It is recommended that grants be approved as contained in Appendix 1 to this report.

Financial Implications

7. The total grant awarded in this report amounts to £9,613 and can be contained within the approved budget £13,000.

Risk Assessment

8. The recommendations made by the Grants Panel do not hold significant risks. All grant applications are subject to the completion of a detailed application and supporting documents including submission of financial details. A follow up check will be made to ensure the funds have been spent in line with the approved grant within 12 months of the award.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. The report complies with our policy to ensure that the voluntary and community sectors are treated fairly and equitably. The Council has had due regard to the aims of the Equality Act. The recommendations in this report promote equality of opportunity, in particular for children and young people, children and young people with disabilities and disabled people (including mental health). As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit an Equal Opportunities statement.

10. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

The community grants encourage and aim to change residents' behaviour by supporting projects which incorporate green initiatives, for example, the Access Nature Days proposed by Youth Options. These are designed to connect young people with nature and teach them about the importance of the environment and preserving their local community.

Conclusion

11. The recommendations made in this report complement the Council's corporate priorities as well as this Committee's local priorities. Due to the current Covid pandemic and coinciding with the festive break some applicants have been unable to supply some of the required documentation. The Panel felt that as long as these can be provided in the near future the projects should be funded. Conditions have therefore been recommended as set out in the Appendix 1. The grants will be awarded in February 21 to recognise and celebrate the breadth of community work being undertaken in the local area.

SIOBHAN STRAND
ASSISTANT LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

8 grant applications were received and are held on file for further inspection. Information is available from Siobhan Strand, Assistant Local Area Manager.