

**TO: CHIEF OFFICER: COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES
2 OCTOBER 2017**

COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award grants under the Department's Community Fund.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources endorses

- (i) the "approved" decisions by the Community Fund Panel**
- (ii) the rejection decisions by the Community Fund panel**

That the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources determines whether or not to approve those projects highlighted as amber in Appendix 1, at the full amount, or at a lower amount.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Community Fund supports voluntary and community groups and projects in Bracknell Forest, particularly those that have a preventative focus or provide community-based support for local people. It can provide funding of up to £5000 per organisation, group or project. The total value of all funding available is £21,350.
- 3.2 Details of the Community fund were sent to those community and voluntary sector organisations with whom the department already has links (including those established by public health). Additionally as well as being advertised on the Council's website details of the Community Fund were distributed by Involve, and SIGNAL to the organisations on their respective databases.
- 3.3 In total the department received 27 applications (although two organisations submitted two applications) which amounted to £72,835. A Community Fund panel consisting of Neil Haddock, Reuben Carlton and Julian Martin evaluated the applications and approved 10 applications.
- 3.4 The Community Fund grants seeks to stimulate innovative community activity, thus;
- Attracting more people actively involved in their communities
 - enable people to identify their own needs, priorities, abilities and responses
 - help improve the quality of life for local people
 - help keep people as independent as possible and, where possible, to prevent them needing ongoing support funded by the council
 - ensure community-based options are flexible and personalised
 - help people create a connection with the broader community in which they live
 - increase community capacity and cooperation across community organisations
 - seed fund local organisations and groups to help kick-start their development and/or further growth

As a consequence, regardless of the panel decision to grant funding projects, a series of meetings are taking place with organisations that submitted applications to see how ourselves and other external organisations can work with these organisations to stimulate further activity to the betterment of residents.

- 3.5 Appendix 1 provides details of the decisions taken. Those applications highlighted in red, are those the panel has rejected, which amount to £50,686. Whilst those applications in green the panel approved, and this report seeks endorsement by the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources of those decisions. These applications amount to F. The total budget allocation for the Community Fund is £21,350. There is thus £1,901 still to be allocated.
- 3.6 The Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources should be aware that there are two projects upon which the Panel has not made a decision and are highlighted in amber on Appendix 1. Approving both or either will mean that the budget is exceeded. These projects are;
- 3.4.5 Club is seeking £4,810 in Community Fund support. They are an innovative drama group for young adults with additional needs aged between 13-22 that live within Bracknell, who are seeking funding for drama workshops, training and equipment which will culminate in live performances. The aim of each session is to increase social interaction, develop transferable life skills and enhance communication whilst having lots of fun. Part of the funding is for training in using Makaton which is language program that uses signs and symbols to help people to communicate. Many of their current participants use Makaton as a means of communication. Given the demographic the organisation supports, we have tried to engage Children, Young People & Learning, unfortunately they have been unable to part support the initiative.
 - Ikkaido Ltd is a charity seeking £3,400 in Community Fund support. They are seeking to run four Ikkaido projects in Bracknell over the next 12 months supporting 50 disabled people. The organisation has a team of trained and qualified tutors, including a paraplegic wheelchair user, who is a qualified Level 2 Coach, Level 3 Tutor, and Level 3 Assessor for 1st4Sport qualifications, and Empowerment Trainer who is one of only three people in the UK mentoring newly disabled people to regain meaning in their lives through new education and employment. Funding will provide each participant with a free karate suit and white belt and free membership of Ikkaido to remove the barrier of cost. Each person will receive a free adapted syllabus book which is both written and pictorial to make it accessible for people with learning disability. The syllabus contains Red Light and Green Light Foods to help residents understand good nutrition. Whilst the organisation is confident it can generate demand for the initiative the Head of Learning Disabilities and Autistic Spectrum Disorder has stated that there has been no call for such an initiative in the past.
- 3.7 The Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources is thus being asked whether it wishes to support either or both projects. If the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources decides to approve just one of the projects, this will exceed the overall budget. This could be addressed by making a grant contribution to the project of £1,901, or alternatively it could request that the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources seeks to decrease the level of Community Fund assistance given to those “approved” projects. If the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources wishes to approve both projects then it will either need to increase the Community Fund budget or request that the Chief Officer: Commissioning and Resources

seeks to decrease the level of Community Fund assistance given to those “approved” projects

4 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

4.1 n/a

Borough Treasurer

4.2 The financial implications are contained within the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

4.3 Equality for all people being supported was considered at all stages of the procurement.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

4.4 n/a

5 CONSULTATION

n/a

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Julian Martin, Adult Social Care, Health & Housing – 01344 351519
julian.martin@bracknell-forest.gov.uk