

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

22 JUNE 2021

Community, Sports and Arts Grants 2020/2021 Annual Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of the Community, Sports and Arts Grants programme for 2020/2021.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Council currently administers a discretionary grant scheme which has 3 discreet strands community, arts and sport. Each year £20k is made available to support local projects across the district.
- 2.2 The sports strand (administered by Active4Today) receives £7.5k per annum and has 3 separate elements, access to facilities, coach education and development and special projects and events. The community strand has £7.5k per annum and the arts strand has £5k per annum.
- 2.3 There are 4 panel meetings each year where applications are considered by the grants panel consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of Leisure and Environment and Opposition spokesperson.
- 2.4 When considering a grant application the member panel assesses the proposals in terms of value for money, community benefit and alignment to the Council's Community Plan objectives as part of the decision making process.
- 2.5 A summary of the community, sports and arts grant awards made in 2020/2021 is detailed in Appendix A attached to this report.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 That committee notes the summary of community, sports and arts grants made in 2020/2021.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 There are no negative equality implications associated with this report. The communities, sports and arts scheme is open to all sections of the community and the member panel takes into consideration fair and equitable distribution of grants across the district and community. In order to support this the Community Relations Team actively work with groups and organisations in localities to encourage applications to the grant scheme.

5.0 Digital Implications

- 5.1 There are no significant digital implications in respect of this report. The application process is completed electronically and due to Covid 19 all grant panels from April 2020 were conducted virtually to ensure the grants programme could continue.

6.0 Financial Implications FIN21-22/860

6.1 There is an annual budgetary provision for the grants, and a management request has been made to carry forward some underspend from 2020/21, delayed due to the impact of Covid 19.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 The communities, sports and arts grant scheme makes a significant contribution to the Council's Community Plan 2020 – 2023 objectives primarily 'create vibrant and self-sufficient communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area' and 'improve health and wellbeing of local residents'.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) the report and Appendix A are noted; and
- b) the Community, Sports and Arts Grants 2021/2022 Annual Review is reported to Committee in 2022.

Reason for Recommendations

To enable the Council to monitor the Community, Sports and Arts Grant Scheme in order to evaluate its impact and value in relation to community development and contribution to the Council's Community Plan 2020 – 2023.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Andy Hardy Health Improvement and Community Relations Manager on Ext 5708

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