



Minutes of the meeting of the **Grants and Concessions Panel** held in Training Room 1 - East Pallant House on Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 9.30 am

**Members Present:** Mr R Briscoe (Chairman), Mrs C Apel, Mr J Elliott, Mrs S Sharp, Mr D Rodgers and Mr A Sutton

**Members not present:** Mr G Evans and Mr G McAra

**In attendance by invitation:**

**Officers present:** Mrs F Baker (Democratic Services Officer), Ms E Beeney (Community Information Officer), Mr D Cooper (Group Accountant), Mr D Hyland (Community and Partnerships Support Manager), McGreal (Benefits Officer) and Miss C Williams (Community Liaison Officer)

The public are likely to be excluded from any discussion at which this report is considered on the grounds that it is likely that there would be a disclosure to the public of "exempt information" of the description specified in Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**178 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Mr Gareth Evans and Mr Gordon McAra,

**179 Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 18 September 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**180 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Mrs Sharp drew the Panel's attention to the some concerns raised by Chichester City Council over the New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding awarded to the Dears Almshouses. The City Council were surprised that the funding had only been awarded for the landscaping and not the solar panels. The City Council had enquired whether the rules on how the NHB was allocated could be amended so that funding of solar panels could be accommodated.

Mr Hyland informed the Panel that officers had met with the Almshouses prior to the submission of their application. He explained that there is a conflict between the grant funding of solar panels and signing up to the feed-in tariff. If any state aid is

received in the fitting of solar panels then the recipient cannot receive any income from the feed-in tariff (and vice versa). Mr Hyland informed the Panel that this issue had been discussed with the Almhouses and they had chosen not to apply for the funding of the solar panels because they would then not be allowed to draw any income from the feed-in tariff.

Mr Elliot made the observation that the feed-in tariff is not likely to continue so the issue may not arise in the future.

Mr Hyland confirmed that following on from the last meeting the infographic had now been updated and had been emailed to Panel members.

### **181 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

The Chairman announced that Agenda Item 5; New Homes Bonus (Parish Allocations) – Request for variation, would be deferred and taken alongside Agenda Item 9; Grant Application – Improving Places and Spaces, in order to avoid any issue in respect of predetermination.

### **182 Draft Annual Report 2018/19**

Miss Williams introduced the report to the Panel. Following the September meeting Miss Williams, explained that the report had been amended to reflect the comments and suggestions made by Panel members at the meeting. In particular more clarity and detail had been provided to the section of the report which outlined concessionary and discretionary rates.

Miss Williams explained that there was still an opportunity for members of the Panel to make amendments; however, she did ask that if the Panel had any further comments they contact Miss Williams before the end of the month. The Report will then be finalised for presenting to Cabinet on 7 January 2020.

The Chairman commended Miss Williams on the quality of the report and thanked her for all her work in preparing the report.

### **183 Grant Applications Financial Summary**

The Panel considered the report. Mr Cooper drew attention to the value of the applications to be considered at the meeting and reminded the Panel that the budget allocation was a maximum of £175,000 for the year with £134,230 remaining.

Mr Cooper informed the Panel that since 25 June 2019 a total of £4,000 have been through the fast track scheme. The Panel noted the following delegated fast track applications decided since the last meeting;

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS FAST TRACK PANEL:**

**Applicant:** Relate North and South West Sussex

**Priority:** Targeted Projects

**Purpose:** Contribution towards the provision of counselling to young people aged between 10 to 19 from the Chichester District.

**Sum Requested:** £1000

**Sum Approved:** £1000

**Reasons:** The project helps and supports younger members of the District who suffer from mental health issues.

**Grant Conditions:** Subject to a Funding Agreement; restricted to beneficiaries from the Chichester District

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS FAST TRACK PANEL:**

**Applicant:** Rotary Club of Chichester Harbour

**Priority:** Targeted Projects

**Purpose:** Contribution towards the 'community projects' programme operated to support beneficiaries in the District, providing essential household items to individuals and families in urgent need.

**Sum Requested:** £1000

**Sum Approved:** £1000

**Reasons:** The project helps and supports people in need and that are most vulnerable.

**Grant Conditions:** Subject to a Funding Agreement; restricted to beneficiaries from the Chichester District

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS FAST TRACK PANEL:**

**Applicant:** Royal Artillery Equestrian Centre Thorney Island

**Priority:** Targeted Projects

**Purpose:** Contribution towards an adaptive saddle which will enable people with certain disabilities to participate in horse riding activities.

**Sum Requested:** £1000

**Sum Approved:** £1000

**Reasons:** The project helps and supports people in need and that are most vulnerable.

**Grant Conditions:** Subject to a Funding Agreement

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS FAST TRACK PANEL:**

**Applicant:** 'Seeing4Hearing' in Chichester

**Priority:** Targeted Projects

**Purpose:** Contribution towards training courses in lip reading and managing hearing loss for people from Chichester District.

**Sum Requested:** £1000

**Sum Approved:** £1000

**Reasons:** The training programme will help give deafened people the skills to better manage their hearing loss and gain confidence, as well as providing people with the opportunity to make new friends.

**Grant Conditions:** Subject to a Funding Agreement; restricted to beneficiaries from the Chichester District

184 **Grant Application - Improving Places and Spaces 1**

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL;**

**Applicant:** Funtington & District Village Hall

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Purpose:** Contribution towards Phase 1 improvements of the Village Hall including: complete refitting of the kitchen and installation of hot water system.

**Sum Requested:** £10,000

**Sum Approved:** £10,000

**Reasons:** To provide a more fit for purpose facility and increase the number and range of groups who are able to make use of the Hall.

**Grant conditions:** None

**Alternative options considered and rejected:** The Cabinet Member for Community Services considered whether or not to support the application, in consultation with the Grants and Concessions Panel.

Miss Williams informed the Panel that the applicant were currently in the process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and changing name. Whilst the change in status would not affect the decision taken by the Panel, it would require some administrative amendments. Miss Williams asked that the Panel delegate the authority to officers in consultation with the Chairman to make the required adjustments as a result of the applicants change in status. The Panel agreed that officers; in consultation with the Chairman could make the amendments as required.

185 **Grant Application - Improving Places and Spaces 2**

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL;**

**Applicant:** Hunston Parish Council Playing Field Restoration

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Purpose:** To redevelop both the playground and the hard court area.

**Sum Requested:** £13,393

**Sum Approved:** £13,393

**Reasons:** To improve both the social and mental well-being of local residents and visitors.

**Grant conditions:** Subject to a funding agreement

**Alternative options considered and rejected:** The Cabinet Member for Community Services considered whether or not to support the application, in consultation with the Grants and Concessions Panel.

186 **New Homes Bonus (Parish Allocations) - Request for variation**

The Panel received and considered the agenda report and its appendices with respects to the request by Hunston Parish Council. Miss Beeney had been in contact with the Parish Council to discuss the request and no reason for concern to their request for an extension.

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL:**

That the proposed variation to funding awarded to Hunston Parish Council from the New Homes Bonus (Parish Allocations) 2017 as set out in section 4.1 of the report be approved.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

That the proposed variation to funding awarded to Hunston Parish Council from the New Homes Bonus (Parish Allocations) 2017 as set out in section 4.1 of the report be refused.

187 **Grant Application - Targeted Projects 1**

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL;**

**Applicant:** Home-Start Chichester and District

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Purpose:** To support Home-Start's work to offer emotional and practical support to disadvantaged families (with a child aged under five) in the north of the District.

**Sum Requested:** £10,000

**Sum Approved:** £10,000

**Reasons:** Strengthening the resilience and independence of isolated and vulnerable families in the north of the District

**Grant conditions:** Subject to a funding agreement

**Alternative options considered and rejected:** The Cabinet Member for Community Services considered whether or not to support the application, in consultation with the Grants and Concessions Panel.

188 **Grant Application - Targeted Projects 2**

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL;**

**Applicant:** Lifecentre

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Purpose:** Contribution towards providing face-to-face counselling support to adult survivors of rape and sexual assault (equates to recommended number of sessions for 10 individuals). Funding restricted to individuals from the Chichester District.

**Sum Requested:** £2,484

**Sum Approved:** £2,484

**Reasons:** To provide support and assistance to vulnerable individuals (from all faiths and backgrounds).

**Grant conditions:** Subject to a funding agreement

**Alternative options considered and rejected:** The Cabinet Member for Community Services considered whether or not to support the application, in consultation with the Grants and Concessions Panel.

189 **Grant Application - Targeted Projects 3**

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL;**

**Applicant:** Selsey Community Forum

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Purpose:** A contribution to three new initiatives: a weekly support session for voluntary carers, a pilot weekly mental wellbeing drop-in and costs related to supervision and administration of a befriending telephone call service for Bracklesham and East Wittering.

**Sum Requested:** £5,000

**Sum Approved:** £5,000

**Reasons:** To support and address the needs of those who are suffering from loneliness and isolation; as well as providing support to those in a caring role.

**Grant conditions:** Subject to a funding agreement

**Alternative options considered and rejected:** The Cabinet Member for Community Services considered whether or not to support the application, in consultation with the Grants and Concessions Panel.

190 **Grant Application - Targeted Projects 4**

**RESOLVED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS PANEL;**

**Applicant:** Youth Dream (Selsey) Ltd

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Purpose:** To extend the support offered by their 'Adult Support Services' which includes working with young people who are NEET and the Positive Parenting Programme.

**Sum Requested:** £5,000

**Sum Approved:** £5,000

**Reasons:** To support young people in improving their life choices and moving on from being NEET. Help families to access appropriate support with parenting skills.

**Grant conditions:** Subject to a funding agreement

**Alternative options considered and rejected:** The Cabinet Member for Community Services considered whether or not to support the application, in consultation with the Grants and Concessions Panel.

191 **Tour of New Homes Bonus Projects**

Mr Hyland informed the Panel that the New Homes Bonus (NHB) tour had been arranged to take place on Thursday 6 February. He proposed that the Panel visit three locations in the morning, three locations in the afternoon with a lunch in between. Mr Hyland drew the Panels attention to the summary of New Homes Bonus Applications on page 103 of the agenda pack and asked Panel members if there were any particular projects they would like to visit. Mrs Apel asked if it would be possible to visit the Westhampnett Community Hall.

The Chairman tasked officers with planning the itinerary for the tour.

192 **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 January 2020 at 9.30am in Training Room 1.

The meeting closed at 10.57am.

The meeting ended at 10.57 am

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CHAIRMAN

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Date: