

Chichester District Council

CABINET

5 March 2019

Priorities and Principles of Grant Funding

1. Contacts

Report Author:

David Hyland – Community Engagement Manager
Telephone: 01243 534864 E-mail: dhyland@chichester.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Eileen Lintill - Cabinet Member for Community Services
Telephone: 01798 342948 E-mail: elintill@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the Council's Priorities and Principles of Grant Funding shown at appendix 2, using option 2 for the Economy priority, with effect from 1st April 2019.
- 2.2 That if a positive decision regarding the future of Enabling Grants funded from the West Sussex Business Rate Pool is received, the Council's Priorities and Principles of Grant Funding are updated using option 1 for the economy priority.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the meeting of 8th March 2016, Cabinet heard the outcomes of the review of Grants and Concessions led by the Grants and Concessions Panel, and approved a number of recommendations including the updated Grants and Concessions Policy, and the "Priorities and Principles for Funding" for the coming year.
- 3.2 The Priorities and Principles for Funding are reviewed annually by the Grants and Concessions Panel as part of their annual monitoring and Report, but in practise have remained unchanged since 2016. In their meetings of October 2018 and January 2019, the Grants and Concessions Panel have considered some changes to reflect the current and expected take up of grants, and recommended changes with effect from April 2019. The existing priorities are attached at appendix 1 with the proposed new priorities at appendix 2.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 In developing appropriate Priorities for grant funding for the year/s ahead, the Grants and Concessions Panel recognise:
 - i) The positive contribution of private, voluntary and community sectors in furthering the Council's aims and objectives.
 - ii) The continuing evolution of services delivered to local residents
 - iii) The value of grant giving in supporting the District's communities.

- 4.2 Priorities for Funding should clearly articulate what the Council is keen to support, and by omission indicate what it will not support. Applicants typically develop their bids over time as projects develop and therefore timely notification of any changes to priorities is essential.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 The current Priorities and Principles for Funding have been employed for three financial years without change. Annual Reviews of the applications received have demonstrated that having more specific Priorities has been effective in managing the level of application and reducing the level of declined applications. Regular feedback from the Council's Funding Advisers (designated staff who are the points of contact for grant applicants) has not indicated a significant area of activity that the current priorities would not support. Accordingly, the Grants and Concessions Panel believe that the Priority areas remain right, but the detail may need some updating.
- 5.2 In respect of the Economy, the current priority (see Appendix 1) was adopted before the "Enabling Grant" funding was secured from the West Sussex Business Rates Pool, and implemented by the Economic Development team. Levels of application to the Grants and Concessions Panel have subsequently fluctuated depending on the availability of those third party funds. Looking forward, a further bid to the pool hopes to again offer Enabling Grants in 2019/20 and if successful, the proposed wording (Option 1, Appendix 2) would seek to fund projects that facilitate inward investment or growth. However, if the pool bid is unsuccessful then support for start up and independent businesses remains important, and in that scenario Option 2 (Appendix 2) is preferred. Unfortunately a decision in respect of the pool has yet to be reached and is expected after March 2019.
- 5.3 In respect of "Living Places and Spaces" the word "Living" is proposed to be removed as it has been suggested that this implies a stronger link to residential development than is intended. However, the priority area continues to attract a diverse range of projects that add value to local communities and Panel do not suggest any other changes.
- 5.4 The "Targeted Projects" currently places a specific emphasis on Think Family Neighbourhoods. These designated neighbourhoods in Chichester District have had greater focus from a range of agencies over the last 5 years, and a number of projects have been funded that directly benefit those communities. The multi-agency focus on those areas has reduced over time, with an increased focus on areas of need wherever that presents itself. Accordingly, Grants and Concessions Panel recommend a priority that retains focus on supporting those in greatest need, but without being prescriptive as to where in this District this may be.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 The Grants and Concessions Panel has reviewed the priorities on an annual basis since 2016, and in previous years considered that the priorities are working effectively to bring forward typically meritorious projects. The proposed changes are relatively minor; more significant changes were discounted accepting that this could have attracted a very different range of projects. Members were particularly mindful of wider changes in the availability of grant funding, and the need to better

understand what impacts that may bring. Revisions to priorities in future years may be required.

- 6.2 The unknown outcome in respect of business rate pool funding for the Enabling Grants scheme has created the need for two options to be considered at this time. A decision could have been delayed until after a decision is known, but that would mean the Council has no Priorities for funding, and no applications could be encouraged in the interim. With bids often taking months to be developed, this could have implications for the flow of bids to the quarterly Grants and Concessions Panel meetings. On balance, Option 2 has been chosen as the initial position as it is consistent – but it is hoped that a decision will be made before the end of the financial year and hopefully the Priorities can be firmly established at the very start of the new financial year.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 The Budget for discretionary grants remains at £175,000 for the year ahead and is allocated in the Councils Budget for 2019/20. Promotion of the Grants scheme for the year ahead would await the approval of both the budget and the Priorities.
- 7.2 Documented Priorities and Principles are valuable to the Funding Advisers. In conjunction with the Grants and Concessions Policy and other guidance documents, they enable clear and consistent information to be given to potential applicants which both improves the quality of bids the Council receives, and dissuades applications that the Council is unlikely to fund (saving applicants time and effort).

8. Consultation

- 8.1 In considering the potential to change the Priorities, the Grants and Concessions Panel have asked for feedback from Funding Advisers regarding the appropriateness of current priorities, the level/type of enquiries that cannot currently be supported, or any other views from the wider sectors they engage with.
- 8.2 The Grants and Concessions Panel also sought direction from the Senior Leadership Team on the current priorities. In respect of the Economy Priority the Economic Development Manager has provided the proposed wording and will advise on the outcome of the business rate pool bid.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

Revisions to the Council's priorities for funding reaffirms the value of the contributions of third parties in continuing to make the District a positive place to live, work or enjoy.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder	While the projects that could be funded by these monies cannot be anticipated, it is likely that many of them will	
Climate Change and Biodiversity		
Human Rights and Equality Impact		
Safeguarding and Early Help		

Health and Wellbeing	have positive outcomes in some or all of these impact areas.	
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		Any monitoring that grant applicants are asked to provide will not contain any personal information.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Current Priorities and Principles for Funding.

Appendix 2: Proposed Priorities and Principles for Funding with effect from April 2019.