

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

7 March 2017

Grant Application - St Wilfrid's Hospice (South Coast) "Dreambuilding"

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1. To consider the recommendation of the Grants and Concession Panel in respect of this application as at paragraph 5.1 of this report.

2.2. Should a further grant award be made, to determine that this should be funded from the New Homes Bonus reserve.

3. Background

3.1. St Wilfrid's Hospice (SWH) provides specialist palliative and end-of-life care to adults suffering from any life-limiting illness. It is a well-established local charity that has been in the same premises for 30 years. It operates primarily through community fundraising. SWH plan to build a new hospice which they believe will better meet the increasing and changing needs of their beneficiaries.

3.2. In November 2015 SWH was granted planning permission for a site in Bosham and purchased the land in January 2016. The new site offers the hospice 50% more usable space. It is an ambitious project with a total cost of £15,585,000. The grant requested is 0.3% of the total project costs. At the time of the Grants and Concessions Panel (GCP) meeting on 19 January 2017 SWH had raised 79.1% of the total cost (over £12m). It hopes to start building in summer 2017.

3.3. A grant application has been received requesting the sum of £50,000 towards the new build project. The application (see Part II exempt appendix for full details) was considered by the GCP at its meeting on 19 January 2017.

3.4. The Grants and Concessions Policy explains how Chichester District Council (CDC) can financially support third parties' projects when they meet CDC priorities. The priorities for grant funding are confirmed annually by the Cabinet and are a key part of the GCP's consideration of bids.

- 3.5. When assessed against CDC's Priorities and Principles of funding the GCP decided that it met their expectations of an 'exceptional' project (on the basis of community benefit, scale of community support and the size of project making the request a relatively small proportion of the total cost). It awarded a £25,000 grant (the maximum allowed under the GCP chair's delegation) but as the total value of the request is over the normal maximum grant size stated in the guidance it is referred to the Cabinet for consideration of the additional £25,000.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1. The application has been submitted under the priority "*Improving Living Places and Spaces – improvements to publicly owned space or built assets that enhance the wellbeing of District residents...*" The bid also highlights the project's contribution to the other two priorities: they will take on more staff as they grow and will also better support those who are "*most in need*".
- 4.2. The project aspires to create a hospice that will meet the needs of the local community for at least the next 30 years. Referrals are anticipated to rise by at least 17% over that period and SWH estimates that the service will support at least 50,000 patients and their friends and family in that time.
- 4.3. The new site will provide a 29% increase in bed space, with an improved layout also helping to provide greater privacy and dignity for patients. Other improvements highlighted will benefit staff, volunteers and families of patients.
- 4.4. The fundraising programme has a target to reach 80% of the total project cost by the end of March 2017. This looks ambitious but achievable given SWH progress. SWH has finalised floor plans, selected a contractor, and anticipate completing construction in October 2018 to be operational January 2019.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. The Cabinet is recommended to consider the recommendation of the GCP "*that Cabinet consider provision of an additional £25,000 funding towards this application*".
- 5.2. The Cabinet can approve this request in whole, award a different sum or reject the request. The Cabinet can also determine whether it is funded from the existing grants balance or fund it from New Homes Bonus (NHB) or Capital Reserves (see 7.1 below).

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1. The Grants and Concessions Panel considered the full range of options available to them on this bid, including whether the bid met the criteria for funding and if funding over £15,000 was warranted.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1. The grant request was presented to the third of four GCP meetings planned for the current financial year. The unallocated balance (with £25,000 awarded by

the GCP to this bid) is £40,253 to meet any further fast track bids and bids received for the GCP's March 2017 meeting. Should the Cabinet consider supporting the request for an additional £25,000 for this project it is not recommended to use this unallocated balance. The alternatives are to utilise CDC's own NHB or Capital Reserves. As the NHB Reserve is where grants are normally funded from it is proposed to utilise this fund.

7.2. Chichester City Council has awarded £25,000 from its NHB fund and the outcome of a bid to West Sussex County Council is awaited.

8. Consultation

8.1. The GCP on 19 January 2017 considered the application and formed the proposal outlined above.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1. The SWH application (see Part II exempt appendix) is supported by evidence showing its level of activity, local support from volunteers, projections for increasing demand and expansion of services. The exempt appendix also assesses the application against the Grants and Concessions priorities.

9.2 Keeping £25,000 as the maximum grant award is one of the main ways the GCP has managed grant applicants' expectations and also how the reduced grants pot (reduced to £175,000 from 2016/17) is able to meet demand. A grant award of over £25,000 from this source could set a precedent for further larger applications.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact CDC's discretionary funding has a positive impact; the benefits of this particular application are assessed in the Part II exempt appendix.	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help		X

11. Appendices

11.1. Grant Application Summary Details – Part II exempt status

[Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the *Local Government Act 1972* (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))]

12. Background Papers

12.1. None