

Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

Author: Jayne Bolton

Telephone: 01235 547626

Textphone: 18002 01235 547626

E-mail: jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk

Wards affected: All Wards

Cabinet member responsible: Matthew Barber

Tel: 01235 547693

E-mail: matthew.barber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: CABINET

DATE: 15 June 2012

Revenue Grant Policy and Procedure

Recommendations

- (a) That cabinet approves a new revenue grant policy and procedure as detailed in appendix 1 of this report.
- (b) That cabinet approves a virement of £10,000 from contingency to the revenue grant budget to fund grants that meet the criteria as detailed in the new revenue grant policy and procedure as detailed in appendix 1 of this report.
- (c) That cabinet delegates responsibility to determine applications that meet the criteria as detailed in the new revenue grant policy and procedure to the head of corporate strategy in consultation with the relevant cabinet member.

Purpose of Report

1. To approve a new revenue grant policy and procedure as detailed in appendix 1 of this report and to approve a virement of £10,000 from the council's contingency to the revenue grant budget.

Strategic Objectives

2. The council has a corporate priority to offer support to local communities by offering grants to voluntary and community organisations who are delivering projects and services that support the council's own objectives or those in need.

Background

3. In 2011/12 the council awarded £99,135 in community grants to 50 separate voluntary organisations. These grants were for a mixture of capital, ongoing revenue and one off event expenditure. Over £10,000 was awarded to seven organisations to help fund the costs of running various festivals in the district.
4. As part of the budget setting for 2012/13, council decided to remove the community grants budget from the revenue budget and replace it with a capital community grant scheme. Cabinet recently approved the policy for the capital community grant scheme with a budget of £100,000 and the scheme will open shortly.
5. In addition, as part of the budget setting for 2012/13 council also approved partnership grants of over £270,000 to 22 separate voluntary sector organisations to support their ongoing running costs.
6. Since the removal of the community grant scheme we have received several formal requests for funding towards festivals in the district and currently there is no means of funding these, assuming cabinet wishes to do so.

Matters for consideration

7. This report invites cabinet to approve a revenue grant policy and procedure as detailed in appendix 1, so that we can determine requests for funding towards festivals or events in the district using a formally approved process.
8. Assuming cabinet wishes to support this, it needs to approve the transfer of contingency funds to support the creation of a new revenue budget. Officers propose that cabinet sets this budget at £10,000. This sum is sufficient to meet likely requests based on previous year's applications.
9. This report also invites cabinet to delegate responsibility of determining applications that meet the criteria as detailed in the new revenue grant policy and procedure to the head of corporate strategy in consultation with the relevant cabinet member.

Financial Implications

10. The council has a revenue earmarked fund of £50,000 that is set aside to be able to offer grants to organisations that are in need of match funding from the council to secure grants from other external sources. Full council either at budget-setting time or exceptionally by way of in-year supplementary estimate, has authority to use this to fund revenue grants rather than the cost falling on the general fund and council taxpayers.

11. Rather than delay creation of the scheme until after the next full council meeting, officers propose instead that cabinet uses £10,000 from the contingency to support this initiative. Council can then decide when setting its budget for 2013/14 whether and how it wishes to use the earmarked reserve.

Legal Implications

12. The council's legal powers to award these grants are contained in section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Risks

13. Organisations that are awarded grants will receive the payment immediately. There is a risk that the organisations who receive payments are unable to hold the festival or event, in this case the organisation will be requested to return the grant.

Conclusion

14. We have developed the new revenue grant policy and procedures so that we can determine requests for funding towards festivals or events using a formally approved process. We have identified a means of funding the scheme initially using the contingency, with the option later of council deciding to use an earmarked reserve.

15. This initiative will help festivals and events to happen within the Vale that might otherwise not do so, bringing economic benefits to the district.