

Management Committee

11 July 2017

Annual Register of Grants, 2016-17

For Decision

Portfolio Holder(s)/ Briefholder

Cllr Jeff Cant, Finance & Assets
Cllr Christine James, Social Inclusion

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

S Hill, Strategic Director

Report Author:

J. Nicklen, Community Planning & Development Manager

Statutory Authority

The Localism Act, 2011, Section 137 of Local; Government Act, 1972 and any other relevant statutory powers as applicable to specific grant provision

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an overview of grants made by the council and those into the Borough including those directly received or enabled by the council through officer support or match funding in the financial year 2016-17 and to identify how external funding success could be improved.

Recommendations

- 2 (a) To approve the grant register and activity for the financial year 2016-17.
(b) To consider an audit of external grant funding practice in the Borough so options can be developed for improved success.

Reason for Decision

- 3 To enable members to have an overview of grants and to inform practice and policy in relation to grants activity.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4 This is the fourth year that a corporate register of grants into the council and Borough and grants made by the council has been presented. The intention of the register is to provide an accurate picture of grant activity across council services so that this informs future policy and practice. This

is particularly important at the current time of growing financial pressures and the need to supplement diminishing funding to deliver council and other priority projects across the Borough.

5. The financial year 2016-17 has seen local authorities and community and voluntary organisations experiencing increased competition for external funding. The grants register for 2015-16 saw grants totalling £464,936 brought into the Borough. Notwithstanding the increased competition for external grants, in 2016-17 grant payments supported or brought into the Borough by 4 services of the council totalled £795,165 as detailed in Table 1 below with full details in Appendix 1. The increase is because of the grant income from the Community-led Housing Fund.

Table 1		
Grants into the Council or Borough supported by Council Officers including match funding enabled		
Service	Grant source and use	Amount (£)
Economy & Leisure	Economic Regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events team attracted grants for armed forces celebrations and a sports festival 	17,500
Planning (Community Policy & Development)	Community Planning & Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community development officer support to 3 organisations involving 5 successful grant applications 	347,350
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing enabling officer support to Community-led Housing Fund 	430,315
GRANT INCOME TOTAL		£795,165

In addition to the above grants, West Dorset District Council received a grant of £6,000 on behalf of all three Councils from the Local Government Association (LGA), Income Generation & Commercialisation programme. This was for commercialisation training linked to LGA expert advice on developing income opportunities.

6. Previous reports on the grants register have highlighted that financial limitations restrict the council's ability to provide grant support to local organisations. The creation of small grants funds for 2017-18 to support the community & voluntary sector and arts and cultural sectors is currently under discussion at Management Committee. This will be reported under separate cover and also included in the grants register for the current financial year which will be reported in 2018.
7. Grant payments made by 3 services of the council totalled £98,903 are detailed in Table 2 below and over with full details in Appendix 2. This also attracted match funding of £6,500.

Table 2		
Grants made or supported by the Council including match funding enabled		
Service	Grant source and use	Amount (£)
Economy & Leisure	Leisure & Commissioning	7,717
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to 1 sports and 3 cultural organisations • Match funding attracted for a One Theatre company production linked to the Leviathan maritime literary festival 2016 	6,500
	Harbour Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grant of 50% of the berth of MV Freedom at Weymouth Harbour 	1,341
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt advice grant to Weymouth & Portland CAB 	12,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness prevention grant to The Lantern Trust 	10,000
Planning, Community & Policy Development	Spatial Policy & Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant to Dorset Coast Forum 	3,000
	Community Planning & Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Grant to Weymouth & Portland Citizens Advice Bureau 	64,845
GRANTS & MATCH FUNDING TOTAL		£105,403

This total is £153,635 less than the £259,038 provided by or enabled by the council in the last financial year.

8. Implications

8.1 Corporate Plan

Grants into the Council and Borough and awarded by the Council have supported the following strategic priorities:

A Stronger Local Economy

- Helping to stimulate economic growth so that the district offers better jobs and prospects for local people

Thriving and Inclusive Communities

- Building strong inclusive and sustainable communities that empower local people to influence and provide the services that most matter to them
- Supporting vulnerable people so that they can live healthy and independent lives

Improving Quality of Life

- Enhancing the quality of life of people living and working in the Borough

- Safeguarding and providing opportunities to enjoy the natural and built environment now and in the future

8.2 Financial

In the financial year 2016-17, the Council received or enabled grant income totalling £795,165 and made or enabled grant awards and match funding totalling £105,403. The income was boosted significantly by the successful award of £430,315 from the Community-led Housing Fund.

8.3 Equalities

The ability to access external grants and effectively manage or enhance internal grants, loans and subsidies has a positive impact by tackling issues relating to communities with protected characteristics under The Equality Act, 2010.

8.4 Risk Management (including Health & Safety)

The continuing risks to the council are an inability to maximise external grant funding through increased competition for external funding, poor awareness of funding sources and lack of co-ordination and planning. There are also finite resources to resource grant awards from the council.

8.5 Human Resources

Officers from a number of Directorates are involved in external funding bids and the grants made to community and voluntary sector organisations outlined in this report are currently administered through the three services.

9. Consultation and Engagement

Consultation has taken place with officers from all services of the council. Engagement takes place with appropriate stakeholders in relation to external funding streams e.g. National Lottery, Dorset County Council, Sport England, Coastal Communities Teams. Officers also engage with and support community and voluntary groups applying for external funding.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Grants into the Council or enabled by Officers
Appendix 2 - Grants provided by the Council

11. Background Papers

Grant returns from WPBC services for the financial year 2016-17

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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