

Board/Committee:	GRANTS SUB BOARD
Date of meeting:	Thursday, 28 September 2023
Title:	Awards Update from Previous Boards
Author:	Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety
Status:	For Noting

Purpose

This report confirms changes made to the grants guidance and forms as outlined at the June 2023 Board to clarify the process for applicants and aid administration of the grants process effective from this round. It also provides an update on the funding awards and recommendations made by the Board at its March and June meetings, including three end of project reports.

Recommendation

That the Board:

- i) Notes the status report provided on the March and June Board awards and recommendations in Appendix 1
- ii) Notes three end of project report summaries from March awardees.

1.0 Background

1.1 Members will recall that the initial processes set up for administering the Community and Heritage Grant funds were considered pilot processes with lessons learned being incorporated into later funding rounds.

1.2 The Chief Executive was given delegated authority to work this process up with other officers at the P&O Board (30/11/22) as it was accepted that there may need to be adjustments made to provide greater clarity to applicants and ease of administration.

1.3 The June Grant Sub Board Report summarised the amendments to the Heritage Fund and Community Fund grant guidance and application forms. These took effect for all applications received after the June Grants Sub Board meeting. The amended guidance and forms are on the Council's webpage.

1.4 This report provides a short status update on previous grant awards made and includes three end of project report summaries received since the last Board.

2.0 Report

2.1 In light of the June 2023 Board the following key amendments have been implemented:

- Reduction of the maximum Community Grant award from £20,000 to £10,000 due to consistently high demand.

- Funding for food and drink is no longer an eligible expense
- Staffing costs may still be considered but not as the main spend of the funding amount requested.
- Guidance advises applicants to consider the scale of their project, if it could be delivered on less funding and to provide a realistic cost breakdown and to provide quotes for all items over £5000

2.2 A status summary of all grant awards made at the March and June Sub Board meetings and those that were deferred or signposted to other possible sources of funding is available in Appendix 1.

3.0 End of Project Report- Friends of Hardway

3.1 Friends of Hardway were awarded £4000 in March to deliver a programme of pop-up water sports in August. Using £1000 of its own funds and working in partnership with Plan B to fund an extra day, nine days of activities in August were made possible.

3.2 Over the full nine days of the event, 259 children between 9 and 19 years old enjoyed the free kayaking and paddle boarding sessions.

3.3 A quote from the report: “Whilst it is difficult to gauge the success of the project in terms of dissuading anti-social behaviour (ASB) it did bring many families to the Hardway Memorial Green and enabled them and their children to experience paddleboarding and kayaking for the first time. It also enabled children to experience the memorial green as a space for ‘fun’ rather than ASB and encouraged young people to respect both the water and our community”.

3.4 This was the fourth year of this project and Friends of Hardway and Plan B have received positive feedback from both parents and children. Benefits include a greater awareness of safety on and near the water and a greater appreciation of the area as a family space to be enjoyed by all.

3.5 Friends of Hardway have also submitted photos of the events with their report that have also been posted on their social media platforms.

4.0 End of Project Report- Montserrat Events- Stage Truck

4.1 Montserrat Events CIC was awarded £1,000 in March to make improvements to their mobile stage. The funding was 20% of the £4,900 spent on the improvements and additions. Photos of the improvements were supplied with their report.

4.2 As well as using the stage for its own purposes it is able to offer it to other local organisations. The company states it has a commercial rate for the hire of the stage truck and offers a reduction on this rate for charities and other organisations working for good causes.

4.3 The company said the improvements mean that the stage is more appealing in appearance as well as being more practical should the weather be inclement.

5.0 Gosport Model Yacht and Boat Club

5.1 The club was awarded £960 for exhibition materials and staging at the Discovery Centre and Museum, celebratory pennants, racing poles and Centenary Pin Badges/pens for its week of activity from Saturday 29 July to Friday 4 August featuring vintage and classic model boats and racing the Centenary Vane A National Championship on 2 August.

5.2 The two exhibitions enhanced the local community attractions and the

spectacle of the racing brought local people as well as many visitors to Gosport, contributing to the local economy. The events were well attended and received very positive publicity and feedback.

5.3 The President of the Model Racing Association (MYA) congratulated the Club in an email stating the event was “the best ever National Championship.”

5.4 No photos of the event or exhibitions were included with the report. The Club said the funding made the event and the local exhibitions very special.

6.0 Risk Assessment

6.1 There will always be an element of a risk when issuing grants to a third party organisation. The Council have financial and legal due diligence measures in place to ensure that the risks are minimised and will not issue any grants until the Council is satisfied that these measures have been satisfied.

6.2 The Grant Agreement forms are part of the measures to ensure the money is used for the purposes set out in the application and agreed by the Sub-Board.

7.0 Conclusion

This report confirms changes made to the grant forms and guidance, provides a status update on March and June Board awards and recommendations and three end of project reports for noting by the Grants Sub Board.

Financial Services comments:	No comments needed
Legal Services comments:	No comments needed
Equality and Diversity:	Not applicable for this report
Climate Change implications:	Not applicable for this report
Crime and Disorder:	Not applicable for this report
Corporate Plan:	The Grants Process empowers residents to contribute towards the six priorities
Risk Assessment:	Contained within the report
Background Papers:	Community Grant Guidance
Appendices:	Appendix 1 Status Report Table from March Board Awards
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Mandy Baggaley, GBC Grants Officer, Corporate Policy & Community Safety