

Board/Committee:	GRANTS SUB BOARD
Date of meeting:	Thursday, 7 December 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 September 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 previous meetings, including three end of project reports.

Recommendation

That the Board:

- i) Notes the status report provided on the June and September 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 September Grant Sub Board Report summarised the amendments to the Heritage Fund and Community Fund grant guidance and application forms made after the June Grants Sub Board meeting. Following the September meeting, the guidance and forms were slightly amended again to reflect the Board's wishes and posted 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 September 2023 Board the following key amendments have been implemented:

- Reduction of the maximum Community Grant award from £10,000 to £5,000 due to consistently high demand.

- Requirement for quotations for all elements costing £3k or more to be submitted with Community Fund applications; quotations required for all elements remaining at £5k or more for Heritage Fund applications.
- Emphasis on the desirability of some element of match funding being evidenced in the application.

2.2 An updated status summary of all grant awards made or deferred at previous Grants Sub Board is available in Appendix 1.

3.0 Friends of Stanley Park- End of Project Summary

3.1 Friends of Stanley Park undertake monthly litter picks in the park. It received a one-off grant award of £500 in June to replenish its supply of litter picking equipment that had diminished since the group was formed in 2018.

3.2 The award helped the group meet the fund's priority of enhancing community places and spaces. Stanley Park is rich with wildlife. Litter picking is a group activity bringing people together and strengthening the community.

3.3 The success of the project is in maintaining the cleanliness and appearance of the park, enabling the community to safely enjoy the beautiful green space and the group can now help maintain it better by continuing monthly litter picking events with the new equipment.

4.0 Solent Town Football Club

4.1 The Sunday league football club was awarded £1,000 in March to help pay for team equipment for its 26 members.

4.2 The grant award was used to buy a team jacket and water bottle for every player and to buy a supply of footballs as often these are lost at matches.

4.3 The organiser reported the money has "helped out massively" and the supply of equipment now means that the club can keep costs down for its members moving forward.

4.4 He included photos of the equipment purchased and the team with his report.

5.0 Fortonfest 2023- End of Project Summary

5.1 Fortonfest is an annual free community event designed to be a day of fun bringing people together. The organiser was awarded £2,000 to help toward costs of the event held on 13 August.

5.2 She reported that the total cost of the event was £2,300 which was met by the grant and other donations.

5.3 Many charities reported that they had a very successful day in raising money for good local causes at the event. Attendance was high though no figure provided, with people of all ages attending and some travelling long distances to come back for the event because of a family or other connection to the Forton area.

5.4 Feedback from the event has been very positive and the organiser said the success of the event would not have been possible without the grant award. Photos were included with her report.

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 Previous Board Awards
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