

Board/Committee:	Policy & Organisation Board
Date of meeting:	Wednesday 3 rd July 2024
Title:	GBC Grants Programme Annual Overview
Author:	Julie Petty, Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety
Status:	For Noting

Purpose

This report, as required by this Board, provides an update on the Council's Grants Programme from its inception in November 2022 until 31st March 2024.

Recommendation

That the Board notes this update.

1.0 Background

1.1 At the Policy and Organisation Board of 30th November 2022 the Council agreed to set up:

1. The Heritage Fund offering grants of up to £50,000 for projects to improve the built and cultural heritage in the Borough and,
2. The Community Fund to offer grants to local community projects for up to £20,000.

The Grant Sub Board was established to administer these funds and there have been five funding rounds up until 31st March 2024.

1.2 In accordance with good practice, the grants processes has developed in light of experience.

Primary changes have related to:

- a reduction in the maximum grant reward amounts (Community Fund now offers grants of up to £5,000),
- cost eligibility,
- more emphasis on match funding,
- the introduction of an Events Fund, from June 2024. This will support local/community events by offering grants of up to £10,000 (maximum 90% of costs).

2.0 Report

2.1 The Heritage Fund received twelve applications: ten awards totalling almost £145,000 were made and two further awards were made on a pledge basis (subject to match funding) totalling £25,000.

2.2 The Community Fund received sixty-eight applications, although a number were withdrawn/deferred, fifty awards were made¹ and a total of £115,387 was awarded.

2.3 Grant funding agreements are produced and signed before funds are released to applicants.

2.4 End of Project reports are requested from successful award recipients within three months of the finish of the project/event. These reports summarise the impacts of the awards to the projects and local people.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 There will always be an element of a risk when issuing grants to third party organisations. The Council has 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.

3.2 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.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 This report provides an overview of the Heritage Fund and Community Fund process and awards as required by this Board.

Financial Services comments:	Not applicable
Legal Services comments:	Not Applicable
Equality and Diversity:	Application form templates and guidance forms were reviewed by the Council's Equality & Diversity Lead Officer
Climate Change implications:	Not applicable
Crime and Disorder:	Not Applicable
Corporate Plan:	Grant applications empower residents to help contribute to the six strategic priorities
Risk Assessment	Contained within the report
Background Papers:	P&O Board Minutes 30-11-22
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Julie Petty, Head of Corporate Policy & Community Safety

¹ 2 were unsuccessful