

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 24th March 2014

Report Title: Foreshore Trust - Events Grants 2014/15 (Round 2)

Report By: Monica Adams-Acton
Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy

Purpose of Report

To present the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel and additional officer recommendations in respect of applications for grants to support events on Foreshore Trust land in 2014-15.

Recommendation(s)

That the Charity Committee:

- 1. Accept the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel.**
- 2. Approve the officer recommendations for additional grant awards.**
- 3. Considers any additional criteria that should be applied to future rounds.**

Reasons for Recommendations

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) has appraised the merits of the applications received for grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the 2014-15 allocated budget. There are a number of additional projects that officers believe warrant grant support which could be funded from that portion of the 2013-14 grant budget that remained unallocated.

Background

1. 2014-15 is the second year that the Foreshore Trust Charity Committee has allocated £20,000 from its budget to support events on Foreshore Trust land.
2. Last year, the scheme attracted just six applications, and the grants awarded totalled £8,540, leaving a balance of £11,460 within the allocated budget.
3. The process used to invite and evaluate grant applications in this second year of the programme was in accordance with the protocols established by the Charity Committee in December 2013. Twenty-one applications for grant were received and each one was reviewed and scored by a member of the GAP. The Panel then met to discuss the respective merits of each application before reaching agreement on recommendations. Of the 21 applications, 11 have been recommended by the GAP for grant support. The Panel's method of assessment and recommendations are set out in the report from the GAP Chair (appended).
4. The total amount of grant requested by organisations exceeds the £20,000 budget. For all but one of the projects recommended by the GAP for funding, the level of grant recommended is £100 less than the grant request (£177 less in the case of St Michael's Hospice), in order to keep within the £20,000 budget.

Officer assessment and recommendations

5. The applications have also been reviewed by officers.
6. The Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure has advised that in most cases, there are no landowner's concerns, although permission for some of the events will have conditions attached in order to ensure public safety and the protection and public enjoyment of Foreshore Trust assets.
7. There are three event proposals that the GAP has not recommended for funding which, in the view of officers, warrant grant support which could be funded from the balance of the 2013-14 budget. These are:
8. Hastings Annual Beach Concert: this is a popular annual event, organised entirely by volunteers, which attracts approximately 6,000 people and showcases a range of local bands. The two-day event is free to the public and raises funds for the local RNLI. Over the last year the organisers have worked with Hastings Voluntary Action to establish a more formal organisational structure and a constitution which makes a clear commitment to equal opportunities. There is a reference in their application to enabling access to those performers and spectators who may have limited mobility. The event is widely promoted and the organisers have a successful track record in managing this annual event.

Grant requested: £2,000

Grant recommended: £2,000

9. St Leonards Festival – Big Day Out: this event will capitalise on St Leonards annual festival this year by drawing festival-goers onto and along the seafront by way of a parade led by an Asian brass band. The event is designed to attract new

audiences from black and minority ethnic communities both within the town and across the wider area. The St Leonards Festival is normally concentrated in the retail heart of Central St Leonards and Warrior Square. The parade will attract festival goers who would not otherwise have visited beach. It is considered that it will promote enjoyment of Foreshore Trust assets in that part of the seafront lying within the most disadvantaged areas of the town.

Grant requested: £2,000

Grant recommended: £2,000

10. Premier League Kicks Beach Football (Albion in the Community): the organisation proposing this event runs football sessions for young people in some of the most disadvantaged parts of the town, and they want to use this event to engage young people from the wider town in healthy sporting activity on Foreshore Trust land (including the Multi-Use Games Area if available). Albion in the Community has a successful track record in organising such events and in making a positive difference to the lives of young people through football. It is felt that, given the active connections this organisation already has with young people in deprived communities, the event has good potential to encourage a new cohort of young people to use the Foreshore Trust facilities which are aimed at promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Grant requested: £1,065

Grant recommended: £1,065

11. It is also recommended that a further £1,177 from the 2013-14 grants budget be used to increase the level of grant awarded to those projects recommended by the GAP up to the maximum amount requested by each applicant organisation.
12. The sum total of all of the above officer recommendations is: £6,242.
13. The GAP was invited to make any additional recommendations in case the Charity Committee determined to increase the amount of money available to support events this year. However, the Panel was not minded to make additional recommendations to its report without clear information on extra available funding.
14. The number of applications and variety of proposals this year revealed several issues that warrant resolution before the next round in order to maintain a consistent approach to evaluating and scoring large numbers of applications. In addition, it would be beneficial to establish greater clarity in terms of priorities for funding and other criteria the Charity Committee might wish to have applied to the process of evaluating grant requests. It is proposed that officers identify potential improvements to the process in consultation with the GAP, and bring recommendations for changes to the established protocols to a subsequent meeting of the Charity Committee.

Policy Implications

15. The Foreshore Trust's Events Grants Programme is a funding regime that supports organisations delivering events that have a variety of positive social and economic impacts, many of which are directed at enhancing community cohesion. All of the applications for funding are assessed in terms of the organisations' commitment to equalities principles.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	Yes

Background Information

Appendix – Report by the Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel with the Panel's recommendations.

Officer to Contact

Monica Adams-Acton
adams-acton@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451749