

**Agenda Item No:** 7

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 1 December 2014

**Report Title:** Community Partnership Funding Main Grants Programme

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

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To provide an update on the process that is approaching completion in respect of applications for Community Partnership Funding (CPF) grants in 2015-16 and 2016-17.
2. To make recommendations on services to be commissioned and organisations to be funded and the indicative grants for each.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Cabinet:

1. **Approves the Grants Appraisal Panel's recommendations as set out in this report subject to the decisions of the Budget Cabinet meeting in February 2015.**
2. **Delegation is given to the Director of Regeneration in consultation with the Lead Member for Community Services to agree final contractual outputs, outcomes and grants.**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

The proposed allocations are based on the indicative CPF budget for the next two years, and follow the completion of a two stage application process to determine which applications for grant most closely meet the council's CPF priorities and offer the best value for money.

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## Background

### HBC CPF Funding Priorities

1. The council's corporate priorities continue to serve as the overarching framework for CPF priorities, and it is proposed to continue with an outcome-based approach to CPF.
2. The table below sets out the thematic areas and outcomes prioritised for CPF support in the 15 – 17 programme. The first four thematic and priority areas are the same as the 2013/14 – 14/15 programme.

<b>Thematic areas</b>	<b>Priority outcomes</b>
Job creation / Employment	Services that result in business start-up and job creation.
Advice services	Services delivering financial, debt, welfare, legal, housing and general advice in response to demand.
Safer communities	Support for victims of domestic violence, and support for rough sleepers.
Active involvement of residents	Services that result in residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged, being able to access services and improve their quality of life.
Digital Inclusion (new additional priority)	Services providing free access to computers across targeted areas of the town, provision of basic computer skills and making online benefit claims, training of local online volunteers, and provision of free online Wi-Fi facility.

3. As part of this year's CPF Programme, we worked with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to jointly commission projects which address the issue of digital exclusion and advice services (focused on getting people back to work).

### HBC CPF Funding Levels

4. The Council is committed to minimising the impact of the budget cuts on the provision of such services and has set an indicative budget level taking into account the overall reduction to council funding over the next two years. The indicative CPF budgets are as follows:

Community Partnership Funding (assuming a 2 year programme and 6.6% annual reduction)	2014 - 15	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
CPF Grant Programme *	£299,000	<b>£278,967</b>	<b>£260,276</b>

\*Includes annual financial support for TCM (£10,000 in 15-16 & £9,330 16-17).

5. The DWP has provisionally agreed to contribute up to £47,850 per annum towards the programme, in the form of match funding for certain projects, subject to successful applications and final approval in December 2014 and December 2015. This contribution includes 10% HBC administration charge on a grant allocation of £43,500 per annum (subject to agreement).
6. DWP officers have participated in the decision-making process to select the priority projects for grant funding.

### Application Process

7. The application timeframe for the CPF programme was condensed this year to enable Cabinet to consider indicative grant allocations in December, thus allowing organisations more time to plan for the next financial year. The CPF programme continues to operate on a full cost recovery basis.
8. 73 expression of interest forms were issued with 36 completed forms received, totalling £964,226 in funding requests. The Grants Appraisal Panel (GAP) was established to review and evaluate all applications, aided by Regeneration Programme officers. The Panel included Councillor Forward, the Housing Needs and Enabling Manager, a Regeneration Manager, and the Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy. Other officers within this Council and East Sussex County Council were also consulted.
9. A two stage process was adopted, and a shortlisting process after each of the two stages ensured that only those organisations most likely to be recommended for funding were required to submit further details about their proposals. Following the Council's decisions about CPF, a final stage will involve one to one negotiations with organisations to ensure the service to be grant-funded will fully meet council and DWP needs and expected outcomes.
10. 18 applicants were shortlisted for the final stage, and all proposals were subject to an objective, consistent and rigorous appraisal, and scored against the criteria set out below. The recommendations of the panel in respect of grant allocations are based on the outcome of this process and the available indicative budget for the following two years.
  - Project delivery
  - Fit with priority
  - Partnership/Consortium links
  - Project costs
  - Difference made

- Beneficiary monitoring

11. The organisations recommended for funding and the proposed annual allocations are set out in **Appendix A** to this report.

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### **Hastings Town Centre Management (TCM)**

12. It is proposed that TCM be allocated an indicative CPF budget of £10,000 to support TCM activity in 2015/61 and £9,330 in 2016/17. This is subject to a satisfactory service level agreement and an annual review process as with other Council grants.

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#### **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

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#### **Area(s) Affected**

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

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#### **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)	Yes
Risk Management	
Environmental Issues	
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes

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#### **Background Information**

### **Appendix A - CPF 2015 - 2017 – Approved Funding Proposals**

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#### **Officer to Contact**

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**Appendix A  
Community Partnership Fund Programme 2015-17**

**Applications for recommendation**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Aim</b>	<b>Recommended CPF Amount</b>	<b>Recommended DWP Amount</b>
Crime Reduction Initiatives	<b>CRI Hastings IDVA Service</b> CRI supports women, men and children who are assessed as medium or high risk of harm from Domestic Violence including 'honour-based', same sex and elder abuse. Priority is given to those at the highest risk of harm or homicide. The service undertakes robust assessments to identify reduce and manage risk. Safety and support plans and appropriate interventions are provided to meet the needs of the victim. The CPF grant would support services targeting medium risk clients in Hastings, thereby reducing the numbers of high risk victims.	<b>2015-16</b> £23,000 <b>2016-17</b> £21,459 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £44,459	N/A
Education Futures Trust	<b>Time2Be</b> Time2Be will support the mental well-being of vulnerable Hastings and St Leonards residents: providing a package of mental well-being provision that will lead to residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better managing the issues that they face</li> <li>• accessing services</li> <li>• acquiring new skills</li> <li>• actively engaging with their local community,</li> </ul> As a result of improved well-being, Time2Be will enable parents to better support their children, particularly in their education, by improving their capacity to parent well.	<b>2015-16</b> £7,500 <b>2016-17</b> £6,998 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £14,498	N/A
Fellowship of St Nicholas (consortium)  <b>Other Partners:</b> Horizons The Bridge Hastings Works HARC Education Training Consortium	<b>REACH 2 &amp; Digiwise</b> REACH 2 will offer residents living in the 4 most deprived areas of Hastings - Hollington, Central St Leonards, Castle and Tressell wards - free training in order to gain skills and confidences in using ICT in readiness for the move to Universal Credit and the increasing use of e-based services, e.g. Job Match. Residents will be supported in their wellbeing and those at risk of debt will be helped through specialist advice in order to improve their quality of life. REACH will actively encourage and engage residents to become volunteers to increase their personal opportunities and employability skills.	<b>2015-16</b> £29,900 <b>2016-17</b> £27,897 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £57,797	<b>2015-16</b> £33,500  <b>2016-17</b> £33,500  <b>Total 2015-17</b> £67,000

HARC (consortium)  <b>Other Partners:</b> BHT CA1066	<b>Hastings Independent Legal Advice Services Partnership (HILASP)</b> A partnership to provide a unified, comprehensive, quality assured and effective independent legal advice and representation service that provides easy access to timely financial, debt, welfare benefits, housing and general advice to those in greatest need who are: living in disadvantaged areas; experiencing exclusion; experiencing or at risk of worklessness and/or income deprivation; or at risk of homelessness.	<b>2015-16</b> £120,937 <b>2016-17</b> £112,834 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £233,771	N/A
Hastings Works	<b>Hastings and St Leonards Employability Hubs</b> Hastings and St Leonards Employability Hubs is the local marketplace for employment and skills and brings people, businesses and support organisations together to promote good working lives and strong local communities. The service will help people identify and access suitable learning, employment and enterprise opportunities by providing advice and practical support.	<b>2015-16</b> £10,000 <b>2016-17</b> £9,330 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £19,330	<b>2015-16</b> £10,000  <b>2016-17</b> £10,000  <b>Total 2015-17</b> £20,000
Hastings Community Transport	<b>Hastings Dial-A-Ride</b> Hastings Dial-A-Ride, operated by Hastings Community Transport, provides transport to those members of the community in Hastings and St Leonards who are in need of such a service because of age, sickness or disability or because of lack of suitable public transport.	<b>2015-16</b> £9,000 <b>2016-17</b> £8,397 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £17,397	N/A
Hastings Voluntary Action	<b>Funding Advice and Support Service</b> The service increases the level of inward investment levered into Hastings through the voluntary sector by supporting Hastings voluntary and community organisations to be eligible for funding, and maximising the number of good quality funding applications. By doing so HVA also increases the range of organisations who are “investment ready” (able to safely manage funding from local, regional, national and EU sources).	<b>2015-16</b> £17,500 <b>2016-17</b> £16,328 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £33,828	N/A
Let's Do Business (South East) Group Ltd	<b>Enterprising Hastings</b> The aim of the project is to provide advice, training and access to finance and networking opportunities for pre start businesses and established businesses within the Borough of Hastings. This will lead to new businesses being created and established businesses surviving and growing, leading to job creation.	<b>2015-16</b> £10,000 <b>2016-17</b> £9,330 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £19,330	N/A
Seaview	<b>Rough Sleepers Outreach Service</b> The aims of the rough sleepers outreach service are to use pro-active assertive outreach techniques, to locate, identify, verify and engage with rough sleepers, and entrenched rough sleepers when they are bedded down and on the streets, or wherever they spend their time during the day and night.	<b>2015-16</b> £20,000 <b>2016-17</b> £18,660 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £38,660	N/A

SEAP	<b>ESA / PIP Advocacy Service</b> The service provides advocacy support to vulnerable people undergoing face-to-face assessments to help them access Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and, where necessary, provide advocacy support at appeals tribunals.	<b>2015-16</b> £10,000 <b>2016-17</b> £9,330 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £19,330	N/A
Hasting Shopmobility	<b>Hastings Shopmobility</b> The service has the aim of helping those who have mobility difficulties, the elderly and those who are disabled or who have an injury which requires a wheelchair, with manual/powering wheelchairs or powered scooters to make their own way round the town to access shops, services or other facilities at a modest hire cost. Also to provide relief periods for carers	<b>2015-16</b> £2,130 <b>2016-17</b> £1,987 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £4,117	N/A
The Links Project	<b>The Links Project</b> The Links Project is a multi-agency partnership that aims to improve quality of life and offer better life chances for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and the wider BME communities living in Hastings and St Leonards by improving access to and knowledge of local advice and support services, and identifying and helping to remove barriers to positive integration.	<b>2015-16</b> £9,000 <b>2016-17</b> £8,397 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £17,397	N/A
Town Centre Management	<b>Town Centre Management</b> Support for TCM services and activities (subject to negotiations)	<b>2015-16</b> £10,000 <b>2016-17</b> £9,330 <b>Total 2015-17</b> £19,330	N/A
<b>Total Funding Recommended 2015-16</b>		<b>£278,967</b>	<b>£43,500</b>
<b>Total Funding Recommended 2016-17</b>		<b>£260,276</b>	<b>£43,500</b>
<b>Total Funding Recommended 2015-17</b>		<b>£539,243</b>	<b>£87,000</b>