

Report To: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: Monday, 16 March 2020

Report Title: Proposed Large Grants Programme

Report By: Victoria Conheady

Key Decision: N/A

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

To propose the themes, criteria, governance and process of assessment for the Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme for discussion and agreement.

Recommendation(s)

1. Charity Committee to agree the themes, criteria, governance and process for implementation of a proposed Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme.
2. To allocate grant amounts available for the 2021–2024 periods as part of the Foreshore Trust Charity’s budget setting process; with the proposed total grant funding available for the five core themes being approximately £161,000 per year with an additional £20,000 per year in both years 2 and 3 to address the ‘Golden Thread’ mental health and wellbeing theme.
3. To allocate as part of the Foreshore Trust Charity’s budget setting process an amount of approximately £19,000 per year to resource the administration of this programme (along with the current small and events grant programme), to be provided by HBC.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Foreshore Trust Charity Committee agreed in March 2019 to develop a large grants programme alongside its combined small and events programme. It also agreed that the large grants programme would support third sector organisations to deliver Hastings wide community support services within a number of activity themes.

This report discusses this proposal in detail for subsequent approval for implementation to meet the proposed launch date of summer 2020. The Foreshore Trust budget also needs to allocate the proposed funding for the programme including the administration costs.

Introduction

1. The Foreshore Trust five year Business Plan for the period 2019-2020 to 2024-2025, agreed at Charity Committee 18 March 2019 that a new charitable giving programme would be developed over the next 18 months to support a variety of activities to achieve its aims.
2. The business plan states that the themes, criteria, governance and process of assessment will be developed during 2019-2020, and that this will be in consultation with the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP). Likely areas of investment to include support for homelessness in individuals and families, individuals suffering from domestic violence, support for the community and voluntary sector, and support for residents with housing, welfare, debt and fuel poverty advice services.

Aims of the Foreshore Trust Charity

3. The Foreshore Trust's current grant programme funding priorities are as follows:
 - a. The prevention or relief of poverty
 - b. The advancement of education
 - c. The advancement of health or the saving of lives
 - d. The advancement of citizenship or community development
 - e. The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science
 - f. The advancement of amateur sport
 - g. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity
 - h. The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
 - i. Any other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purposes, which are similar to other charitable purposes.

Large Grants Programme Proposal

4. The large grants programme attempts to meet the charity priorities in a more substantial scale than that possible via the current small grants programme.
5. The proposed purpose of this grant programme is to provide larger grants to improve service provision already available in the town and cover any gaps that may exist. It is also to support the work of existing charities and voluntary organisations operating in the town already. Supporting existing charities will help secure their long-term future by offering stability with funding, as the proposed programme would run across three years. There are also opportunities for charities to use the Foreshore Trust grant monies as leverage against other funding opportunities.
6. This approach also encourages long-term service provision without the stop/start of activity that can happen when funding one-off projects.
7. The Foreshore Trust has already selected the proposed activity themes, having taken advice on previous evidential analysis of need in the town (see 9 below). They are based on the level of need and the scale of impact that can be achieved with a relatively small funding pot such

as the proposed programme. This level of funding available is not sufficient to generate meaningful impacts towards all of the charitable aims of the Foreshore Trust. It is therefore proposed that the Foreshore Trust focuses on the needs and gaps listed below, which are able to build on current activities in the town. This is to maximise the impact of the funds and attract more investment to the projects.

8. The proposed themes are:
 - a. Homelessness
 - b. Domestic violence
 - c. Housing, debt and benefit advice (including fuel poverty)
 - d. Migration intervention
 - e. Support services to voluntary organisations (who support the most deprived and isolated individuals).
9. These themes were also informed by a consultation undertaken by the council in summer 2016, which identified the highest priority support needed in the town given limited budgets.
10. They also fit with most of the Foreshore Trust’s grant and business priorities as highlighted in the table below:

Foreshore Trust Grant Priorities	Fit with Foreshore Trust Business Plan proposed large grant themes
The prevention or relief of poverty	Homelessness Housing, debt and benefit advice
The advancement of education	N/A
The advancement of health or the saving of lives	Homelessness Domestic violence Housing, debt and benefit advice Migration intervention
The advancement of citizenship or community development	Support services to voluntary organisations Migration intervention
The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science	Support services to voluntary organisations
The advancement of amateur sport	N/A
The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity	Migration intervention Housing, debt and benefit advice Support services to voluntary organisations
The advancement of environmental protection or improvement	Support services to voluntary organisations
Any other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purposes which are similar to other charitable purposes	N/A

11. The small grants programme, already in operation, provides support for priorities listed in the first column of the table above. These are similar themes to the proposed large grant programme, although, given the level of funding, for discrete small-scale project activity. It is

envisaged that organisations may be able to apply to both programmes so long as their application fits the programme criteria.

12. Appendix 1 contains the proposed themes in detail with summary evidence of current need, proposed specification, proposed delivery method and performance indicators.

‘Golden Thread’

13. A common thread (named the ‘Golden Thread’) of co-ordinated working between all the funded Foreshore Trust large grant projects has also been included to address and develop a wider mental health and wellbeing agenda.
14. The co-ordination of this development work will be included in the voluntary support theme and will include the tasks detailed below. During the first six months of year one the grant programme partners will meet to identify the gaps in this ‘Golden Thread’ and agree a service specification. There will then be an open call for applications for funding for service delivery for this theme in years two and three.
15. An amount will be ring-fenced from the total large grant programme pot to provide this service.
16. The partnership working expected by all the funded Foreshore Trust large grant organisations is:
 - a. Participation in network meetings (to be arranged and coordinated)
 - b. Sharing of good practice
 - c. Referrals
 - d. Identifying gaps in service provision and defining a service specification for the ‘Golden Thread’.

Proposed Budget

17. The Foreshore Trust large grant programme is anticipated to be available for services starting from April 2021 and ending in March 2024. The grant amounts available for the 2021–2024 periods will be confirmed as part of the Foreshore Trust Charity’s budget setting process. It is anticipated the grant for financial year 2021-2022 will be confirmed in March 2021, for the second year period of 2022-2023 in March 2022 and for the final year of 2023-2024 in March 2023.
18. The proposed total grant funding available from the large grant programme for all years for the five core themes will be approximately £161,000 per year. An additional £20,000 per year in both years 2 and 3 will be made available from the large grant programme to address the ‘Golden Thread’ mental health and wellbeing agenda.
19. Indicative amounts will be identified further in the process for each of the agreed themes. This is to manage expectations of applicants and reduce unwanted effort in the application process. Otherwise, for each theme applicants could potentially apply for all the funds available from the grant pot. These indicative figures will need to be based on recent intelligence of similar service deliveries.
20. The administration of this programme (along with the current small and events grant programme) is provided by HBC. A 0.5FTE post will need be included in the Foreshore Trust business plan to provide the resource for this. The anticipated role is a grade 6 position, of total costs (including on costs) ranging from £16,000 to £19,000.

Proposed approval process

21. As stated in the Foreshore Trust current business plan, this new programme will be developed in consultation with the GAP. The GAP role within the grant approval process will also follow the normal procedure, whereby they will provide a recommendation to the Charity Committee regarding applicants for approval.
22. The large grants programme will be a one-stage application with the call and guidance published in the normal way as for the other grant programmes.
23. Applications will initially be reviewed by HBC officers for eligibility and due diligence checks, such as, organisation governance, financial status and fully compliant applications.
24. The applications will then be considered by GAP members for discussion and assessment at GAP meetings. GAP members will see all of the applications including any of those recommended to be turned down at the HBC officer initial review stage.
25. HBC officers administering the programme will ask any follow-up questions from the GAP meeting to applicants. All responses will be emailed to GAP members for their confirmation and final recommendations. The GAP reserves the right to call all applicants for interview. In this instance, an additional GAP meeting would be held to discuss the interview responses and make final recommendations.
26. These recommendations will be presented to the Charity Committee in the normal way (see proposed timelines below).
27. The guidance, application form and assessment criteria have been discussed by the GAP and the proposed programme guidance is attached to this report (Appendix 2).
28. The GAP members' representation at the assessment meetings will also need to be considered given the specialist type of services being assessed. This may require specialist training/resources to increase their knowledge and expertise.
29. Any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts have been considered in the development of this programme and in its implementation. Appendix 3 details the possible conflicts and mitigation.
30. For the 'Golden Thread' mental health and wellbeing theme, the approved grant programme partners will meet in the first six months of year one to identify the gaps in this theme. They will then agree a service specification. This will be followed by an open call for applications for funding for service delivery for this theme in years two and three. The GAP will assess the applications for this theme in the second half of year one.

Timetable of Next Steps

31. A list of further key actions and the scheduled dates for these are detailed below:

Action	Key milestone	Due date	Responsible
Presentation of programme to Charity Committee	Approval of programme	16 March 2020	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members

Budget agreed for 2021-22	Approval of budget figures for 2021-22 with indicative budgets approved for 2022-23 and 2023-24	16 March 2020	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members
Final specifications set up for recommendation and approval	Specifications, application and guidance approved for launch	June 2020	HBC officers, GAP members, CC members
Agree GAP and application assessment dates	GAP members and assessment dates fixed	June 2020	HBC officers, GAP members
Launch programme	Programme open for applications	Mid-June 2020	HBC officers
GAP training session	To provide support and training for GAP members in assessing applications	Mid-June 2020	HBC officers, GAP members
Application deadline	Programme closes	Mid-August 2020	HBC officers
Application assessment	Applications checked by HBC officers	Mid-August 2020	HBC officers
Application assessment	GAP assessment	Early September 2020	GAP members
Applicant interviews (if necessary) or follow up questions	Further GAP assessment for any follow up queries from first panel	Early October 2020	HBC officers, GAP members, applicants

Second GAP meeting	Final GAP meeting to discuss responses and make final recommendations	Mid-October 2020	HBC officers, GAP members
Recommendations presented to Charity Committee Planning meeting	GAP report for recommendation	Early-November 2020	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members
Recommendations presented to Charity Committee meeting	Charity Committee approve grant applications	Early December 2020	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members
Applicants notified	Applicants notified subject to budget confirmation in March 2021	Early December 2020	HBC officers, approved applicants
Applicants provision starts	Projects start delivering	April 2021	HBC officers, approved applicants
Agree proposed 'Golden Thread' specification	Successful applicants agree gaps in mental health provision and devise proposed 'Golden Thread' specification	August 2021	Lead project officers CC Chair – observer only
GAP members review 'Golden Thread' specification	GAP members meet to review and recommend 'Golden Thread' specification	Early August 2021	HBC Officers, GAP members
Charity Committee members review 'Golden Thread' specification	Charity Committee members meet to review 'Golden Thread' specification	Mid-August 2021	HBC Officers, Charity Committee members
'Golden Thread' proposal presented to Charity	'Golden Thread' proposal discussed and recommended	Mid to late August 2021	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC

Committee Planning meeting	by Charity Committee Planning		members
Approve 'Golden thread' specification	Charity Committee approve 'Golden Thread' Specification	September 2021	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members
Launch open call for 'Golden Thread' service	The 'Golden Thread' service is open to applicants and advertised	September 2021	HBC officers
Application deadline for 'Golden Thread' service	The 'Golden Thread' call for applications is closed	December 2021	HBC officers
'Golden Thread' application assessment	'Golden Thread' applications checked by HBC officers	Mid-January 2022	HBC officers
'Golden Thread' application assessment	GAP assessment in conjunction with Small and Events Grant Programme assessments	Late-January 2022	GAP members
'Golden Thread' applicant interviews (if necessary) or follow up questions	Further GAP assessment for any follow up queries from first panel	Early February 2022	HBC officers, GAP members, applicants
'Golden Thread' second GAP meeting if needed	Final GAP meeting to discuss responses and make final recommendations	Early February 2022	HBC officers, GAP members
'Golden Thread' recommendations presented to Charity Committee	GAP report for recommendation	Late February 2022	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members

Planning meeting			
'Golden Thread' recommendations presented to Charity Committee meeting	Charity Committee approve grant applications	March 2022	HBC officers, GAP chair, CC members
'Golden Thread' applicants notified	Applicants notified subject to budget confirmation in March 2021	March 2022	HBC officers, approved applicants
'Golden Thread' applicants provision starts	Projects start delivering	April 2022	HBC officers, approved applicants

Wards Affected

All

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 37.6

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	Y
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	Y
Anti-Poverty	Y
Legal	N

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness

Proposed priorities contribute to equality and community cohesiveness.

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)

Proposed priorities contribute to crime prevention.

Risk Management

The proposed priorities are to enhance service provision already provided by other funding sources. The absent of the Foreshore Trust grant however may limit the ability of charities to continue to leverage in these funds, which would result in the limiting of provision with greater negative impact on local communities.

Environmental Issues

It is anticipated the advice theme will also deliver housing advice, including fuel poverty and energy reduction/efficiency support.

Economic/Financial Implications

Proposal is for funding of a three-year programme to provide stability to recipient charities. Depending on the budget constraints of the Foreshore Trust charity in the subsequent years, the proposed agreed grant amounts may need to change which would likely negatively impact recipients.

Human Rights Act

Included in current proposed priorities.

Organisational Consequences

Sufficient Foreshore Trust resource is needed to launch, deliver and monitor programme.

Local People's Views

Proposed priorities based on feedback of public consultation in 2016.

Anti-Poverty

Included in current proposed priorities.

Additional Information

Appendix 1A-E: Proposed Large Grant Programme priority theme specifications

Appendix 2: Proposed programme guidance

Appendix 3: Conflict of interest assessment

Officer to Contact

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