

Report to: Charity Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting: 29 March 2021

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Large Grant Programme recommendations

Report By: Andrew Colquhoun
Chair, Foreshore Trust Grants Advisory Panel

Purpose of Report

1. To make recommendations as to which organisations should be funded under the Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme and the allocations that will be made to each.

Recommendation(s)

1. To consider the Grant Advisory Panel's (GAP) recommendation to award grants to the organisations shown in Appendix A.
2. To request grant funding for this round at **£161,411** for financial year 2021-2022
3. To agree to a following call towards the end of 2021 for the 'Golden Thread' specification

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The recommended organisations for grant funding have been selected following an open application process and awarded to those considered by the GAP to best meet the Foreshore Trust's aims and objectives.
2. This round was assessed with a focus on activities responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic and includes projects that will commence from April 2021.
3. An additional £20,000 will be made available each year in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 to fund the 'Golden Thread'. This is a common thread of co-ordinated working between all the funded Foreshore Trust large grant projects which has been included to address and develop a wider mental health and wellbeing agenda.

All applicants at this stage were asked to show how they plan to address this theme, with an emphasis on working in partnership with the other funded organisations.

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 of service delivery under this theme in years two and three.

The GAP will assess the applications for this theme towards the end of year one.

4. 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'.

Introduction

1. The Foreshore Trust Large Grant Programme is a grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service within Hastings & St. Leonard's. £161,667 is available in the 2021-2022 financial year and is forecasted to be £181,667 each year for the following two years totaling £525,000 for the period 2021-2024. Please see below for breakdown.

Theme	FT LGP 2021-22	FT LGP 2022-23 Forecast	FT LGP 2023-24 Forecast	FT LGP Total 2021-24
Domestic Violence	£22,500	£22,500	£22,500	£67,500
Housing, debt and benefit advice (including Fuel Poverty)	£84,215	£84,215	£84,215	£252,646
Support infrastructure to voluntary organisations	£15,755	£15,755	£15,755	£47,265
Homelessness	£28,000	£28,000	£28,000	£84,000
Migration intervention	£11,196	£11,196	£11,196	£33,588
Mental Health (golden thread)	£0	£20,000	£20,000	£40,000
	£161,667	£181,667	£181,667	£525,000

2. Applicants were asked to enter their requested amounts of Foreshore Trust large grants programme grants for Option A (full amount) and B (reduced amount) for each financial year bearing in mind the possible reduced amount of grant funding available in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.
3. For this particular round the Charity Committee amended the guidance and application form to focus the call to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Trust Grants Programmes, advertised the programme in October 2020 via a social media campaign and in the Hastings Voluntary Action newsletter, the Hastings Observer and in East Sussex County Council's external funding newsletter. The deadline for receipt of applications was 6th November 2020.

Assessment of applications

5. A total of 8 enquiries were received and by the closing date, 7 applications were submitted and assessed.
6. The GAP met via Microsoft Teams on 25th November 2020 to review and score the applications. All applications were assessed by all GAP members.
7. All GAP members had previously declared conflicts of interest which might have precluded them from appraising applications from particular organisations.
8. In assessing the applications, the GAP attempted to ensure they were assessed in terms of the organisations' ability to deliver their proposals, how closely the proposed activities match the priorities of the Charity Committee, value for money and a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community.
9. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in Appendix A.
10. Of the 7 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 6 of these be approved for funding at various levels.
11. Grants are required to be spent and accounted for on an annual basis by March 2022, March 2023 and March 2024
12. The projects recommended for approval in 2021-2022 total £161,411
13. There were two applications applying under the Housing, debt and benefit advice theme, those being HARC and CAB. The panel recommended to part fund each application under the advice theme (annual amount = £84,215), splitting it between the two applicants. The applicants confirmed they would be confident they could still deliver their service with the reduced amount and both resubmitted their budgets to reflect this.
14. The panel recommends that these two organisations are encouraged to work closely together to deliver a more joined up service.

Policy Implications

15. The Foreshore Trust's Grants Programme is a funding regime that will impact positively on the economic and financial environment in the Borough and will assist organisations in delivering a range of activities for local people. Applicants were asked to consider the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
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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

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	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix A – Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme 2021-2022 recommendations

Officers to Contact

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Appendix A - Foreshore Trust Large Grants Programme 2021-24 recommendations

Applicant	Project Name	Funding recommended 2021-2022	Funding Forecasted 2022-2023	Funding Forecasted 2023-2024
Change Grow Live (CGL)	CGL Domestic Abuse Service (@ the Portal)	£22,300	£22,300	£22,300
Citizens Advice 1066 (CAB)	Advice Services - Citizens Advice 1066	£42,108	£42,108	£42,108
Hastings Advice & Representation Centre (HARC)/ BHT /Age UK	Hastings Advice Services Partnership (HASP)	£42,108	£42,108	£42,108
Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA)	Funding Advice and Support Service	£15,755	£15,755	£15,755
HVA - The Links Project	The Links Project	£11,140	£11,140	£11,140
Seaview	The Seaview Project	£28,000	£28,000	£28,000
	Total for approval	£161,411	£161,411	£161,411