

Report to: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 18th March 2024

Report Title: Foreshore Trust Small & Events Grants Round 8 recommendations.
Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Place

Report By: Victoria Conheady

Key Decision: Yes

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

1. To present the recommendations of the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Small and Events Grants Round 8 2024- 25.

Recommendation(s)

That the meeting:

1. Consider for approval the Small and Events Grants Round 8 2024-25 recommendations of the GAP as set out in Appendix 1 (with projects listed in Appendix A)

Reasons for Recommendations

The Grant Advisory Panel has appraised the merits of the applications received for Small and Event Grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the available 2024-25 budget.

Background

1. The Foreshore Trust Small and Events Grants Pilot is a small and events grants scheme for voluntary and community groups offering a service or running an event within Hastings & St. Leonards. £43,000 is available for round 8 in the 2024-25 financial year for grants of up to £6,000 each.
2. Hastings Borough Council, as administrator for the Foreshore Trust Grants Programmes, advertised the programme in November 2023 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.

An e-mail was also circulated to all previous Foreshore Trust grant applicants. The deadline for receipt of applications was 15th December 2023

Small and Events Grants Awards 2024-54

A total of 54 applications were assessed with a total amount requested of £258,783

3. The GAP met at Muriel Matters House on 24th & 25th January 2024 to review and score the applications. As in previous years the GAP members were paired up for the initial assessments and these were then jointly reviewed at the meetings.
4. All GAP members had previously declared conflicts of interest, which precluded them from appraising applications from particular organisations.
5. 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, their value for money and a fair distribution of funds amongst all the priorities and members of the community.
6. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in appendix A of the GAP chair report (appendix 1).
7. Of the 54 applications considered, GAP recommends to the Charity Committee that 12 of these be approved for funding at various levels. All the projects plan to deliver within 12 months of approval of the grant.
8. The projects recommended for approval total £43,000. The panel recommend that the underspend balance from Round 7 of £11,832 should not be spent in this round but should be carried over and added to the total budget available for the next round (Round 9) of the small and events grant programme.

Timetable of Next Steps

9. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Approval of organisations to fund	Charity committee meeting	18/03/24	Charity Committee members
Notification of approval/rejection and contracting approved projects	After budget and project approval at Charity meeting	W/C 25/3/24	HBC secretariat officer

Wards Affected

All

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)	
Risk Management	
Environmental Issues	
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	
Local People's Views	
Anti-Poverty	
Legal	

Additional Information

Appendix 1 – Report by the Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel with the Panel's recommendations (Appendix A).

Officer to Contact

Ian Sycamore isycamore@hastings.gov.uk 01424 451339