

**Cultural and Economic Services Committee**

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**Date:** 7 October 2019

**Title:** Youth Promise Grant

**Purpose of the Report:** End of grant report

**Contact Officer:** Vivien Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services

<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>	<b>LLTC Three Year Plan –</b> <b>Aim: 2 -</b> To continue to support a vibrant town through partnership working and initiatives including management of the street market, support for local businesses, town and community promotions and town centre enhancements.
<b>Implications:</b>	
<b>Financial</b>	√ £150k allocation to scheme. Future projects allocation of monies.
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>	

**1. RECOMMENDATION/S**

**Should members be minded, the proposal is to;**

**1.1 To note the report.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 At its meeting on 25/09/17, Council Resolved to (Ref 191):

- Endorse the Town Council’s commitment to capacity building within the voluntary and community sector by way of the inclusion of such an objective with the Town Council’s 3 Year Plan (2015-18).
- Identify up to a maximum of £150,000 from the Town Council’s Capital Projects Budget to support capacity building within the parishes’ voluntary and community sector over the period (2017-19).
- Encourage by way of a grant application process voluntary organisations to apply for grant funding.
- Endorse that the decision-making powers together with the proposed budget of £150,000 be delegated to the Cultural and Economic Services Committee who through this committee will oversee the management of the scheme.

2.2 At its meeting on 18/01/10, Committee resolved to (Ref. 075/CE):

- Endorse the guidelines and protocols for granting monies to voluntary & community organisations working with young people aged between 11-19 years via the Youth Promise Grant Scheme.
- Endorse the addition of 4 timetabled Cultural & Economic Services Committee meetings to facilitate grant awarding decision-making as required.

2.3 In the Council's strategic 5-year plan 2019 – 2024, Committee has a target action (no. 26 to 'consider ways to support the increase in leisure and personal development for youth'.

### 3. INFORMATION

3.1 The intent of the Council's investment was to assist established community groups and local delivery charities, to expand the 'offer' of positive activities and broaden the activity base permanently. To this end, three output/target themes were given for applicants to respond to:

1. Develop the 'quality' of activities and/or delivery.
2. Build delivery 'capacity' – skills, qualifications, knowledge and volunteers.
3. Increase membership – reach/serve more children and young people.

3.2 12 grants were awarded during the application period, January to December 2018.

3.3 The lowest grant awarded was for £2,270 with the highest being £30,000, which was the top amount groups could apply for.

3.4 The total cash match funding from the scheme recipients towards securing their grants was £17,346.17. Match funding was considered to provide added value to the scheme as it required commitment from the group. In one instance, more than 10% cash in-kind was contributed by the applicant in order that they could secure the full £30k grant funds.

3.5 The table below gives a flavour of the diversity and breadth of activities and needs that the fund helped to address and the associated targets / outputs.

Theme	Detail
Sport infrastructure (capital projects)	Tennis - mini tennis court & practice fence. Athletics – long & high jump facilities
Sport / Group infrastructure (kit)	Competition canoes, Sports kit, Trees – camp site development / environmental knowledge enhancement, Uniforms, Specialist activity equipment, e.g. Fire Services
Sport / Club qualifications	Coaching qualifications (all levels) – rugby, hockey, netball, Refereeing – hockey, netball, rugby, Rifle instructor,

	First Aid and Incident management, Foundation Rescue and Safety training,
Supporting qualifications	First Aid,
Specialist qualifications	ABC Level 1 Cert. Intro to Youth Work Mental health awareness - suicide prevention
Recruitment of staff	Dedicated sport coach Club sessional worker
Volunteering hours	V10 Awards (through the VInspired scheme), V30 Award (through the VInspired scheme), Ambassadors and Coaching hours,
Membership	Increases in group membership Sustaining membership

3.6 The table below provides examples of delays in project delivery and budgetary allocations:

LB Hockey Club	Underspend	Allocation of underspend on additional delivery of schools-based work throughout September/October 2019.
LB Rugby Club	Delay in full spend	Coaching courses postponed and rescheduled by provider – awaiting new course dates.
Sea Cadets	Delay in full spend	Course provider for water safety proving difficult to find and limited volunteer availability for First Aid course.
Fire cadets	Delay in spend	BA systems were in test phase before final equipment could be given.
CHUMS	Completion delay	Staff capacity - completion anticipated in October 2019

#### 4. LEARNING POINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Some feedback received was that the criteria set did not assist all groups in applying for funds, e.g. a group must have been in existence for at least two years. Groups were referred to the Council's general grant scheme as well as the sports council grant scheme, however, the disappointment was that they would not be able to access the unusually large grant opportunity that the Youth Promise Fund was offering. The sum made available to local groups in this current economic climate was recognised as an exception to the rule in comparison to local council grants.
- 4.2 Many groups required help to understand how to identify targets and outputs that responded to the criteria of the grant. Some stated that outputs and outcomes were hard to achieve and be evidenced within the delivery period of the scheme, e.g. an increase in membership as a result of improving provision of equipment and facilities.
- 4.3 The application form and guidelines were clearly set out however the scheme lacked a template for end of project reports. This meant information came back

in different guises and not necessarily in easy to follow format. Given the guidance needed by groups at the application stage, a template would be needed should the scheme be delivered again.

- 4.4 Slippage in project delivery timescales was caused by a number of issues, e.g. loss of key volunteer/staff, training providers changing the delivery programme for training courses and in one instance, a national body changing a delivery standard for kit, as well as suppliers not having items in stock.
- 4.5 The scheme was delivered in a tight timescale. Should the fund be delivered for a second time; consideration will need to be given to the project delivery timescale to better allow necessary promotion time as well as facilitate voluntary organisations more time to develop their application that they can confidently deliver within the period agreed.
- 4.6 Underspend and overspend on projects has occurred. The application required best estimated spend. In one instance, the cost of equipment came in at a lower cost creating surpluse which was ploughed back into the project o the benefit of beneficiaries. An overspend was met by one group by utilising another grant income.
- 4.7 Generally, grant schemes require the background resources to deliver the scheme. A percentage of the total allocated budget is often set aside to cover administration costs including spend on promotional activity. The wider Cultural and Economic Services annual budget was utilised to support promotional activity for the scheme. Likewise, the staff resource needed to deliver the scheme requires dedicated staff time to assist groups when applying, undertake mid delivery monitoring and end of scheme evidence gathering appropriate to a grant of this size, i.e. £30k projects.
- 4.8 The grant created value added in both income generation of groups, e.g. one group levered in an additional £18k as a result of expanding their contact network and learning of other grant opportunity. Other groups benefited from recruiting addition staff thus creating time to explore new avenues to expand delivery work, e.g. on group was able to start sending young people to competition tournaments resulting in their recruitment into regional sports teams.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This ambitious grant scheme achieved the aims set by Council to recognise the existing good work undertaken by community and voluntary organisations by supporting their capacity building through provision of grant funds.
- 5.2 Recipients have stated the benefits of the grant thought out the delivery of the scheme. Groups have reported on the positive impact of grant spend for their beneficiaries, **Appendix A.**

**END**