

Consideration of motion presented to Council by Councillor O'Driscoll

Community Services Committee Thursday, 15 June 2023

Report of: Head of Communities and Partnerships

Purpose: To note

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

Executive summary:

- This report follows the Standing Order 7 motion brought by Councillor O'Driscoll for support to local sports clubs to Full Council on 9th February 2023. An amendment to the motion was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next Community Services Committee.
- The Council is committed to continue to support community organisations and provide the tools to encourage residents to adopt new behaviours and become more active.
- It supports community organisations that lease assets including sports associations through the rental grant subsidy policy which was adopted in 2015.
- The Council's Strategic plan acknowledges the importance of local voluntary and community organisations in supporting strong and healthy communities. This can be demonstrated through the allocations of the Council's small grant scheme which are allocated from the Tandridge Together Community Fund, (part of the Tandridge Lottery).
- The Council supports Tandridge Voluntary Action through partnership funding. They are able to provide community and sports organisations with governance and funding guidance.
- This report acknowledges the support that is currently available to local sports clubs across the District and the importance of promoting grants available to organisations, signposting to where they can seek advice on how to apply for grants.

This report supports the Council's priority of: Building a better Council

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Recommendation to Committee:

That all local sports clubs across the District are signposted to the Tandridge Community Lottery and Tandridge Voluntary Action who can provide advice on how to apply for grants.

Reason for recommendation:

This report is being brought to Committee following the Motion under Standing Order 7 brought by Councillor O Driscoll to Full Council on 9th February 2023.

The Council has a process and criteria for the allocation of small grants. Officers believe the Tandridge Health and Wellbeing board is well positioned to carry out an objective and thorough review of applications and promote the Tandridge Lottery to sports and community organisations.

The Health and Wellbeing board is represented by multi-agency partners including local leisure providers and Active Surrey who work collaboratively to help remove barriers and create opportunities to get people moving more.

The Motion has highlighted that a greater promotion of the services of these organisations is required and which Officers will investigate through the Health and Wellbeing board objectives.

This recommendation supports the priorities in the strategic plan 'Building a better council - providing residents with the best possible services'

Introduction and background

- 1 Cllr O'Driscoll raised the issue of support for local sports clubs across Tandridge at Full Council on 9th February 2023. The motion written by Councillor O'Driscoll is attached as Appendix A.

Rental Grant Subsidy policy

- 2 The Council has a rental grant subsidy policy, which was adopted in 2015. This policy aims to provide greater transparency regarding the extent to which the Council subsidises tenant organisations. It acknowledges the importance of local and voluntary community organisations in supporting strong and healthy local communities.
- 3 The applications for subsidies are considered carefully, so that subsidies are given to those community organisations that bring greatest value to communities.

- 4 The policy aims to provide greater transparency regarding the extent to which the Council subsidises tenant organisations and is intended for use at lease expiry and rent review dates.
- 5 Tenant organisations are required to apply for Rental Grant Subsidy via the Asset Management team. There is a standard application form that requires the tenant to provide details and evidence of its aims and ethos, its role within the community and financial status. The form also requires the applicant to detail the implications of not receiving the rental grant subsidy.
- 6 The Policy incorporates a transparent scoring matrix by which officers make their recommendations by way of a report to Strategy & Resources Committee for decision. Six organisations were approved in the last twelve months. Three of these were sports associations (Warlingham Sports Association, Caterham & Whyteleafe Tennis Club, Lingfield Sports Association).

Tandridge Together Community Fund

- 7 The Tandridge Together Lottery was launched in 2018. Ten pence from every ticket sale goes into the Tandridge Together Community fund to be allocated as a small grant. People purchasing tickets for the lottery have the option to nominate a good cause to receive another 50 pence.
- 8 The Tandridge Health and Wellbeing board began assessing applications for small grants on behalf of TDC in 2018 and at the Community Services Committee in the same year it was agreed that the board would continue to assess and recommend funding allocations on an annual basis.
- 9 The Health and Wellbeing board membership consists of a wide range of partners including Surrey County Council, Surrey Heartlands, Education, the voluntary sector, Leisure organisations and is chaired by a District Councillor (currently the Vice Chair of Community Services). The board will continue to promote the Tandridge Together Fund and Lottery to local community groups and sports associations.

Partnership Work

- 10 The Council has a partnership agreement with Active Surrey to support each other in the delivery of sport and physical activity development across the District. The objectives for 2022/23 were as follows:-
 - To deliver a quality system partner programme and specific local support against set targets agreed by both the Council and Active Surrey.
 - To establish a clear management and monitoring/evaluation process to ensure the key objectives are delivered.

- To support delivery of the Movement for Change strategy at a county-wide level and to drive its implementation locally in Tandridge.
- 11 Regular partner meetings are held with Officers from the Council, Freedom Leisure and Active Surrey to ensure that progress is monitored against these objectives.
 - 12 In addition, Active Surrey send through regular communications to alert the team of any Sport England Funding opportunities. These are then shared with community and parish groups.

Tandridge Voluntary Action (TVA)

- 13 Tandridge Voluntary Action is the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for the Tandridge area. This organisation acts as the 'umbrella body' for the Tandridge voluntary sector and operates from the Oxted Community hub. It offers various services to local voluntary groups including matching volunteers to charity groups, funding / governance advice; training; DBS checking; networking opportunities; a monthly publication.
- 14 A tri-partite partnership grant funding agreement is in place with Surrey County Council and Surrey Heartlands. The agreement includes setting objectives to focus on volunteering, finding funding opportunities and providing governance advice.
- 15 Performance is monitored through an agreed performance scorecard and performance management system. Surrey County Council leads on collating and disseminating performance information to all partners. An annual review meeting is held with all parties.

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

There are no pertinent legal implications associated with any items within this report. Members are nevertheless reminded that Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation. Similarly, Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

Equality

In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The grant funding that is awarded to community groups clearly demonstrates positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations especially amongst the elderly and most vulnerable residents within the District.

Climate change

There are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Cllr O Driscoll's Motion to Full Council and Report

Background papers

None.

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