

Crawley Borough Council

Consideration Report for Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement

Expected Date of Decision – 21st September 2021

Reinstate the Small Grants Programme

Report of the Head of Community Services and Cabinet Member for Public Protection and
Community Engagement **HCS/032**

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To reinstate the Small Grants Programme for 2021/22 and to complete the process within agreed budgets.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Small Grants Programme be reinstated.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1. To enable the Council to provide grants in accordance with the Small Grants Programme for 2021/22.

4. Background

- 4.1 At its meeting on [3 February 2021](#) the Cabinet agreed that the 2021/22 grants programme be put on hold due to the context of the budgetary challenges and the remedial actions required to deliver a balanced budget. As part of the budget setting process for 2021/22, the Council stated its intention to reduce the overall community grants fund by £212,000 in two tranches.
- 4.2 The reduction in 2021/22 is £120,000, retaining a fund totalling £512,000. The total reduction of £211,000 applies for 2022/23 leaving an overall grants budget allocation of £421,000. This allowed the Council to take a transitional approach to the reduction and fulfil its contractual obligations in 2021/22. Reinstating the small grants programme would enable the Council to issue grants using the grants budget allocation.
- 4.3 On 31 August 2021 the Leader provided delegation to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement to decide whether to reinstate the Small Grants Programme (Councillors' Information Bulletin [IB/1095](#) refers).

5. Description of Issue to be Resolved

- 5.1 The new Small Grants Scheme would be implemented from October 2021 with an online application process to support local groups in need. The budget for 2021/22 is £63,024 (funds provided for the transitional period).
- 5.2 The overarching aim of the new small grants scheme is to “foster greater levels of community connectivity and cohesion”. Further outcomes will be aligned with those priorities stated within the outcomes framework document.
- 5.2 Awards are for up to £2,500. Standard funding terms and conditions will apply. An end of project report will be required.

6. Implications

- 6.1 The negotiation, approval and completion of all relevant legal documentation following the awarding of the contract to will be delegated to the Head of Community Services, Head of Legal, Governance and HR, Head of Corporate Finance, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member. This is in line with previous arrangements, and those to follow from 2022/23.

7. Background Papers

Report to OSC and Cabinet on 1 February 2021 and 3 February 2021 respectively: [“Community Grants Future Options” \(report number HCS/24\)](#).

Report to OSC and Cabinet on 23 November 2020 and 25 November 2020 respectively: [“Budget Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26” \(report number FIN/508\)](#)

[Councillors’ Information Bulletin IB/1095](#).

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