Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee
5 December 2019
Community Grants Programme
Report by the Corporate Head of Healthy & Resilient Neighbourhoods

Purpose
To consider an application for a Neighbourhood Community Grant (NCG)

Recommendation
That the Committee considers an application(s) for Neighbourhood Community Grant as set out in paragraphs 2-7 of the report.

Benefits to the Community:
To encourage local voluntary and community sector organisations, faith groups, charities and not-for-profit organisations to access funding and expand their capacity.

Key Points
A. There are three different funding sources under the new Community Grants Programme available for Neighbourhood Committees and Ward Members to support and encourage local voluntary and community activity in their neighbourhoods.

B. The Committee is being asked to consider an application from Surbiton Youth Marching Band for a £2,450 Neighbourhood Community Grant.

C. The agreed guidelines for the Neighbourhood Community Grants programme are attached as Annex 1

Context
1. There are three different funding sources under the new Community Grants Programme available for Neighbourhood Committees and Ward Members to support and encourage local voluntary and community activity in their neighbourhoods, as follows:

   (a) Neighbourhood Community Grants (previously known as Your Kingston Grants and New Initiatives Grants), of up to £3,000 per application, are available to fund projects/activities/services to benefit communities in each of the four neighbourhood areas. Each Neighbourhood is awarded £20,000 per annum, which is reduced as Neighbourhood Community Grants are awarded throughout the financial year.

   (b) Councillor Ward Funding, at £2,000 per Councillor per financial year, will remain at the discretion of individual Ward Councillors unless the Neighbourhood Committee have decided to pool all or part of the Councillor Ward Funding budget.

   (c) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) must be spent on infrastructure needed to support development in the Borough. The upper limit of funding to apply for will be the amount allocated to each Neighbourhood Area - allocation will vary by Neighbourhood and is not time limited.
Neighbourhood Community Grant (NCG) application(s)

(i) Surbiton Youth Marching Band

2. Minimum Standards Dashboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Standard</th>
<th>Met (Y/N)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the group have a written constitution or memorandum and articles or set of rules that establishes that it is a voluntary, community, faith or other not-for-profit organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has the group demonstrated how surpluses are re-invested if the group is a not-for-profit organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the group have a management committee or board of trustees with at least three members?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Does the group have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Does the group have at least two unrelated people to authorise cheques and make withdrawals?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Does the group have an accounting system such as annual accounts to record income and expenditure?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Has the group shown that it does not have an ongoing deficit that the grant application could be used to fill?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Application

3. Surbiton Youth Marching Band have submitted an application for £2,450 to provide 62 waterproof capes for members of the band to wear over their uniforms when performing in bad weather. This includes extras, in several size groups, in order to cover the continuous growth of the young band members.

4. Surbiton Royal British Legion Youth Marching Band (Surbiton Youth Band) teaches young people between ages 8 - 25 to play traditional musical instruments as well as drill and parade skills. All members are given a musical instrument, tuition and uniform for a nominal fee. This has allowed members to learn to play an instrument, something many would not have had the opportunity to do without the Band, due to the cost of lessons. The Band have played at many local and National events including Surbiton Remembrance Day, The Lord Mayors Show, The Victory Youth Tattoo, Surbiton festival, Bricquebec festival, France and most recently a concert with the Band of the Scots Guards.

5. All young people are welcome regardless of experience and members have gone on to careers as professional musicians. Several of our members are taking music at GCSE and A-level with two gaining places to study at the Royal Northern College of Music and others studying or aiming to study music at university. The Band is growing continuously and is near to reaching 50 members. The Band gives young people a sense of achievement, confidence, pride in their appearance and skills that they can carry forward into adult life. The Band charges a nominal fee of £40 for those in full time education and £45 for those over 18.
6. When the Band play at outside events they currently have no waterproof protection against the elements which results in the Band’s young people and leaders becoming wet, cold and uncomfortable if playing in bad weather. The band recently upgraded many of their younger members uniforms but the Band would welcome some waterproof capes to protect their uniforms. This will allow the band to keep the uniforms in good condition and to continue using and passing down the uniforms as members grow.

7. The application’s three cited outcomes are:
   - enabling the band to play at their best without being wet, uncomfortable and cold whilst still looking smart. This means they will then give a better performance making it more enjoyable for the young people and the leaders as well as those watching.
   - protecting uniforms against bad weather so ensuring the uniforms will last longer for future band member as all uniforms are passed down as the members grow out of them.
   - enabling the band to perform in all weathers at local and national events whilst the young people are representing Surbiton and the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Resource Implications

8. No additional resources will be required. This will be delivered within budget by existing resources and operates within Financial Regulations.

9. **Neighbourhood Community Grants** - The Committee had £20,000 available this year. The Council also received the return of a £3,000 grant from an earlier grants programme, for a Surbiton project that could not be completed, making a total of £23,000 available to the Committee this year. Thus far the Committee have allocated £18,600 therefore the Committee has £4,400 available to fund applications this year. If the Committee agree the application in question then £1,950 would remain.

Legal Implications

10. The award of community funding grants and councillor ward funding grants by the Neighbourhood Committee or councillors should not give rise to any legal implications provided the grants are distributed in accordance with the relevant criteria to appropriate persons, bodies or organisations.

11. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) the Council must, when exercising its functions, including considering applications for grant, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between those who share a ‘protected characteristic’ under the 2010 Act and those who do not. A ‘protected characteristic’ is defined as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are also protected characteristics for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination.

Equalities Impact Assessment

12. A full EQIA was carried out during the Neighbourhoods Review, this included the consideration of grants and grant allocations.
13. There are no known direct equalities impacts arising from the decisions set out in this paper however, Community Groups funded through these grants will need to consider equalities when planning their projects and/or submitting bids.

Health & Sustainability Implications

14. Organisations and groups are encouraged to submit grant applications that promote the health and wellbeing of their local communities.

Road Network Implications

15. Grant awards are unlikely to impact on local road network or Parking issues. However, in the event of a grant being considered where road closures may apply i.e. street play/ playing out/ community road party, the Neighbourhood Manager will review and liaise with Highways and road network officers.

Background papers held by the author of the report: James Geach, Neighbourhood and Communities Manager, james.geach@kingston.gov.uk. Tel 020 8547 5062

- None other than those referred to in this report