

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing))	Cabinet	Monday, 20 June 2022

Leisure Local Community Fund

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Cabinet with a series of Leisure Local Community Funds bids which are recommended for approval.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. Cabinet is asked to approve grant funding proposals for the Leisure Local Community Fund.

Reasons for recommendations

3. Applications to the Leisure Local Community Fund were invited until 22 May. The Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing) have considered all bids, with those recommended for funding attached at Appendix A.

Other options considered and rejected

4. Leisure Local Community Fund bids were received from a wide range of applicants for a wide range of initiatives. Applicants of the bids which were not successful will be notified, with a full explanation of why funding was not awarded to them as part of this scheme.

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

6. At Budget Cabinet on 9 February, approval was given to the creation of a Leisure Local Community Fund of £200k, to support delivery of the Council's Leisure Local agenda – making recreation, leisure and sport opportunities accessible to everyone. At the Budget Council meeting later in the month, this was increased to £250k.
7. A webpage was set up on the Council's website with an online application form and guidance notes to support applications see link below. This was actively shared amongst sports clubs, school and community groups by members and officers on social media, by e-mail and word of mouth.

Proposals

8. A new Leisure Facilities strategy was adopted by the Council in 2020. The strategy set out a vision for the development of leisure facilities in the borough with particular reference to the concept of 'Leisure Local'. A key focus of this was to;
 - Develop pathways into a more active lifestyle and related activities working closely with local sports clubs, schools, and community groups contributing to the Council's objectives around, community wealth building, health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities
 - Collaborate with partners to reach all communities to increase access into sport and physical activity through using leisure and community facilities alongside accessing our green links network, local parks and the natural environment.
 - To work locally in partnership with residents, community groups and education and schools to deliver new sessions, develop volunteers and enhance a broader local use of the facilities.
9. The Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing) have considered all bids to the Leisure Local Community Fund the assessment criteria is attached as Appendix B. The applications subsequently recommended for funding awards are listed at Appendix A.
10. The funding has been awarded to 21 groups to deliver projects which will support the outcomes of Leisure Local concept in the Leisure Facilities strategy. The total amount awarded is £245,247 which will enable people of all age ranges into local pathways to active lifestyles and support local clubs and community groups.
11. If proposed recommendations are approved by Cabinet, applicants will be notified and officers will draw up grant agreements to release funding and set out monitoring arrangements.

Governance

12. Scoring matrices were used to ensure that all applications were scored fairly, assessing project outcomes, demonstratable need, community involvement, target demographic, alignment with Council priorities, timescale, social justice, feasibility, sustainability/legacy, and community wealth building.
13. Following the announcement of successful applications, the Communities team will work closely with the Council's Legal department to draft robust grant agreements. This will include a commitment to project timescales, value for money, social value, and community benefit, whilst also exploring options for contingencies. Applicants will also be expected to provide content for communications, both during project delivery and upon completion. Grant agreements will be monitored by the Communities team through the project delivery period, with regular updates being provided to members via the Community Hubs and key officers via 'Delivery Plan' meetings.

Climate change and air quality

14. The grant proposals set out in Appendix A contain a number of initiatives which support the Council's Green Agenda. By investing in leisure facilities within the borough, the Council is encouraging residents not to travel long distances, and to engage in leisure activities locally. Work on creating green spaces, re-seeding pitches and new planting will all have air quality benefits.

Equality and diversity

15. The grant proposals set out in Appendix A support initiatives which increase accessibility to leisure and sport, removing financial and physical barriers.
16. Equality impact has been considered by officers and members through the decision making process; there are no potential negative impacts on any of the protected groups identified in the Equality Act. There are positive impacts on gender, age and disability.

Risk

17. A risk register will be created for each of the successful applications before funding is awarded. Due to the varied and diverse nature of applications, these will be completed on an individual basis.
18. Grant agreements will contain monitoring requirements which are timely and proportionate to the value of the grant supplied. The Council's Audit and Legal Teams will be proactively involved in the drafting of agreements

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. The grants will be funded from the £250k agreed at Council in February for 2022/23 for investment in our sports and community organisations.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. There are no concerns with what is proposed from a legal perspective. Legal officers will be involved in ensuring that appropriate grant agreements are drawn up and entered into.

Background documents

<https://www.southribble.gov.uk/article/2235/Leisure-Local-Community-Fund>

Appendices

Appendix A – Successful Leisure Local Community Fund Applications

Appendix B – Assessment Criteria for Bids

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Rebecca Heap (Communities Manager)	rebecca.heap@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625276	25/5/22