

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of Portfolio Holder: Councillor Julie Banks
Portfolio: Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision: 31/12/21

Community Grant application

Recommendations made and reasons:

To award a grant of £9,000 to Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association

In the Summer round 2021 a community grant application was made from Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association which has received approval at the grants panel meeting on 8 September.

The organisation completed the purchase of their own premises in 2020 and now plan to modify the building to create a multipurpose space for activities to take place. The building was formerly an NHS clinic and as such it is not conducive to holding group events. The organisation plan to remove some of the internal walls and replace them with folding partition walls to facilitate both small and larger group activities. This work will also require relocating some of the pre-existing plumbing and electrical installations. The centre has become an essential asset to the community and is used for social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing.

They have already expanded their facilities to include a games room and are now looking for funding that will help them invest in the DBWA Centre and increase the range of activities they can offer. Their application included funding requests for equipment once the multipurpose room has been created, however the grants panel felt it appropriate to only fund the internal works at this time.

Total project cost £12,687
Funding:
£9,000 DBC grant
£515 raised from fundraising activities

This leaves a shortfall of £3172 for equipment purchases. This will not affect the organisation's ability to create the multipurpose space as they will be able to fundraise and apply for other grants in the future for this.

Background

The Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association (DBWA), based in Hemel Hempstead, was formed in 2005 with the primary aim of supporting the growing Bangladeshi community in the town. They are a non-profit organisation and registered charity who have actively sought to bring together the community providing regular organised activities to cater for all genders and age groups. These activities include classes for children and adults (men and women), congregational prayers, annual fun days and tuition classes primarily focussed on English and Maths. The success and maturity of the organisation means that focus of the organisation is no longer limited to solely the Bangladeshi community. They welcome people from all backgrounds and there is now a significant number of people attending classes and events that are from diverse backgrounds.

The proposed improvements to the building will improve the flexibility of the building's internal space to allow a wide range of groups to meet. They are proposing to remove some of the

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internal walls to turn small office spaces into a larger multipurpose room and to include folding partition walls to aid with the flexibility of the space.

The application was assessed through the Community Grant Scheme, which is specifically set up to support Community, Voluntary, Arts and Sporting groups that benefit the residents of Dacorum. There are three rounds of Community Grant funding per financial year. Charities are invited to apply for funding and the applications are assessed by a panel of officers, who will be looking at how well it meets the criteria of the fund; whether the project supports the Councils objectives and how it supports the following five ways to well-being: be active, take notice, learn, give and connect.

Agree recommendation

Request further information

Financial Implications:

The money will be taken from the community grant budget, which has sufficient funds to cover the costs.

Reports considered:

Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association community grant application Summer round 2021 – reference ID - 1576

Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:

Officers on the grants panel present:

Niamh Thomas, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Funding and Partnerships)
Fay Murphy, Assistant Accountant, Finance
Alex Care, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Team Leader
Joe Guiton, Community Safety and Children's Services Team Leader
Darren Flanagan, Accountant, Finance

Also consulted: Mandy Peters, Tenancy Sustainment Team Leader

Jodie Bartlett, Housing Quality Insight and Improvement Officer

Danielle Bulpit, Civic Events and Corporate Support Officer

Marion Rawdon, Assistant PA

Kim Gioiosa, PA to the Chief Executive

Claire Foster, Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Physical Activity and Sport)

Annie Smith Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer (Projects)

Matt Stedman, Adventure Playgrounds Lead Officer

Deputy Monitoring Officer/S151 Officer Comments:

Deputy Monitoring Officer:

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to incur expenditure, which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all or some of its residents.

Further to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a local authority has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations providing recreational facilities.

Deputy Section 151 Officer:

The grant award follows an application and approval process by panel. The cost of the award will be covered by existing the Community Grants budget.

Implications:

Risk: there are no specific risks identified that relate to the allocation of funding as described

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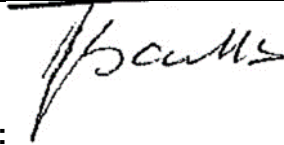
in this report

Value for Money: the community grants criteria looks to gain additional value from supporting community projects with a small amount of resource which yields maximum community benefit. It therefore provides good value for money. Many of the projects and activities are also directed towards external funding sources.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Not to award the grant as detailed - This has been rejected because the application fulfils the Council's scoring criteria within the community grant scheme.

Portfolio Holders Signature:



Date: 30/12/21

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 30/12/21

Date Decision Published: 31/12/21

Decision No: PH-021-21

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 10/01/22

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: