

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	9 March 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Funding Grant to Light Up Bexhill Community Interest Company to Support the Delivery of Victory in Europe Day Celebration Event

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That one of the following options be agreed subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 to enable the delivery of a Victory in Europe Day event on the De La Warr lawns on 8 May 2020:

- a) a total grant of up to 100% of the grant request (£5,000) be awarded to Light Up Bexhill Community Interest Company, to be met from the Medium Term Financial Plan Earmarked Reserve; or
 - b) a total grant of up to 50% of the grant request (£2,500), be awarded to Light Up Bexhill Community Interest Company, to be met from the Medium Term Financial Plan earmarked reserve; or
 - c) a total grant of £500 be offered, in line with the Victory in Europe Day event grant scheme, to be met from the Victory in Europe ringfenced portion of the Community Grant Scheme; or
 - d) funding of up to £2,000 be offered from the Rother Events grant scheme programme.
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Head of Service: Ben Hook

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Mrs Earl-Williams

Introduction

1. A request has been received from Light Up Bexhill Community Interest Company (CIC) for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of delivering a Victory in Europe (VE) Day celebration event on the De La Warr Pavilion lawns on VE Day – 8 May 2020.

Light Up Bexhill CIC

2. Light Up Bexhill are incorporated as a Community Interest Company a 'not for profit' entity. There are three Directors of the CIC; these are Councillor Hazel Timpe, Councillor Terry Byrne and Susan Briant. The objective of the CIC is to provide Christmas Lights and festivities in Bexhill.

VE Day in Bexhill – event outline and costs

3. The purpose of the event is to celebrate VE Day and to ‘mark with respect the past and to celebrate our peaceful future’. The highlight of the day will include the displaying of a ‘message to the nation’. An expected turnout of 1,200 residents and visitors will hold individual cards in formation, which when turned over will show the Union Jack with the middle section showing the word ‘PEACE’. This will be filmed from the air.
4. The event will be family focused with stage performances by local youth performing arts groups of music and dance. A kids vintage fun fair, circus workshops, swing orchestra in period costume and dance exhibitions from the period plus a “Merrie England” stunt action show will provide entertainment for the day. It is expected that there will be vintage and classic cars, along with a small market and four food outlets.
5. A breakdown of expected total costs is set out below:

Stage and PA	£800
Big Screen	£1,200
First Aid	£200
Stuntmen, fighting knights	£1,500
Union Jack cards	£680
Union Jack flags to hold	£450
Piper or trumpeter	£100
Insurance	£1,400
Total	£6,630

Financial Consideration

6. Cabinet have previously agreed to ringfence £10,000 from the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) budget to match fund small grants (up to £500) to enable communities to celebrate and commemorate VE Day (Cabinet Minute CB19/42 refers). The application from Light Up Bexhill CIC does not meet the criteria for this fund for the following reasons:
 - a) Their request is in excess of £500
 - b) Their request does not meet 50% ‘match funding’ criteria
7. A total of £18,000 is available this year through the Rother Visitor Events grants pot. The fund, which is open Rother wide, is to support development of year round visitor events (April 2020 to March 2021). Bids of between £250 and £2,000 are encouraged and high interest is expected.
8. No specific budget provision exists for this event; it does not fit with the criteria for the CGS, the VE portion of the CGS, or the Rother Visitor events grants - at the amount being requested. However, if Members were minded to support the proposal, then the following options could be considered:
 - a) up to £5,000 of funds from this scheme could be committed from the Medium Term Financial Plan earmarked reserve;
 - b) up to 50% of the grant request (£2,500), could be awarded from Medium Term Financial Plan earmarked reserve;
 - c) a total grant of £500 be offered, in line with the VE event grant scheme; or

d) funding of up to £2,000 be offered from the Rother Events grant scheme programme.

9. It should be noted that the Council would not normally 'double-fund'; therefore, if Members were minded to agree, for example option b) above, a further application, for example to the Rother Events grant programme, would not be permitted.

Conditions

10. Should Members be minded to offer a grant in any form, this should be subject to the following conditions:
- evidence of the total costs for the day are provided;
 - a full risk assessment is completed (this has been submitted) and been agreed as satisfactory;
 - evidence of event insurance cover is submitted; and
 - evidence of sponsorship or further funding to cover any shortfall is submitted.
11. Should Members be minded to agree the first option (up to £5,000) if total costs for the day fall below £5,000, the award will be reduced to cover the cost of the event minus any sponsorship payments which have been received.

Conclusion

12. Members are requested to consider the information given in this report and from the options given, agree to contribute some funding to Light Up Bexhill, subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 10 and 11.

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director

Risk Assessment Statement

Failure to support this grant application could result in the loss of opportunity to secure an event in Bexhill to commemorate VE Day.