**LEISURE, WELLBEING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**22 MARCH 2017**

**PART I - DELEGATED**

**6. LEISURE, COMMUNITY AND CAPITAL GRANTS APPLICATIONS – LATE ITEM**

(CED)

1. **Summary**
   1. The Committee is asked to consider a late Leisure & Community Grant for the South Community Oxhey Choir.
   2. Officers have made recommendations (including grant award amounts) on the basis that the Committee has agreed with officer recommendations with regards to the 6 other Leisure & Community Grant applications that have been considered.
2. **Options/Reasons for Recommendation**

**Leisure and Community Grants**

South Oxhey Community Choir, SOCC

* 1. The project involves the SOCC, representing South Oxhey / Three Rivers District, on tour over the bank holiday weekend of 28th April to the 1st May 2017.
  2. 72 SOCC members will be performing at the The Arc, Birmingham Great run, a local Care Home and Stratford Upon Avon Band Bandstand.
  3. Officers would like to make Members aware of the following:
* Each participant will be paying at least £100 each towards their accommodation, travel and other costs associated with the tour.
* SOCC will apply to Watford Rural Parish Council for a contribution.

2.4 The project score of 56 enables officers to recommend 70% (or £10,980) of the total project cost of £15,690 for award.

2.5 However, as there is only £900 left in the Leisure & Community budget for 2016/17, officers recommend this amount for award.

2.6 Further details are provided in Appendix 1.

**APPENDICES**

1 – South Oxhey Choir Grant Application Summary

Appendix 1

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| **Organisation** | South Oxhey Community Choir | | **Ref** | 16/17/20 |
| **Amount Requested** | £3,000 Leisure & Community Grant | | | |
| **Grant Recommended** | £900 | | | |
| **About the Organisation:**  The South Oxhey Community Choir, SOCC is a community-based group (voluntary-run) that was set up in 2008 by the BBC as part of the Gareth Malone television series.  SOCC’s objects are:   1. To promote community activity, enjoyment and social inclusion through singing 2. To develop opportunities for friendship, companionship, mutual support and to reduce social isolation through the mutual pleasure of music 3. To provide, educational, recreational, leisure and social activities for members through the promotion of music 4. To attain and consistently maintain a professional level of musical direction and performance 5. To promote performances that are fully inclusive of the membership of South Oxhey Choirs 6. To promote membership of the Choir for the residents and people with a close connection to South Oxhey regardless of sex, race, colour, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation   SOCC raise income through membership fees, raffles, selling of Choir merchandise and other small grants (e.g. Parish Council).  SOCC currently has 120 members, 110 of whom are from the Three Rivers District.  Membership to SOCC is open to individuals or organisations. Members of SOCC have the choice of paying weekly, monthly and annually. Membership is £25 for a twelve week term. Concessions are offered to any member that cannot afford £25.  Members of SOCC have directly benefited from their participation in the following ways:   * Health and wellbeing improvement * Skills development learnt through participating * Confidence and self-esteem improvement (the majority of the members had never performed in public before, let alone in front of hundreds of people * Enhanced pride within their community, individually and collectively   SOCC believe that they have brought the South Oxhey community together in a remarkable way. | | | | |
| **Expenditure**  (FY ending 31/08/2016) | **Income**  (FY ending 31/08/2016) | **Cash Balance**  (as of 31/08/2016) | | |
| £25,200 | £24,640 | £18,650 | | |
|  | | | | |
| **The Project:**  As part of building up to the choir’s 10th anniversary, the South Oxhey Choir is going on tour in Birmingham for the bank holiday weekend of 28th April and 1st May 2017. SOCC will be performing at the The Arc, Birmingham Great run, a local Care Home and Stratford Upon Avon Band Bandstand with another local community choir.  This exciting project is giving SOCC the opportunity to represent South Oxhey/Three Rivers District in a positive light. SOCC has performed many times within Three Rivers/Watford. This is this first time SOCC are taking the choir outside of its comfort zone to a whole new audience.    SOCC are also working with ex-students of West Herts College who are producing a promotional video which includes weekly rehearsals, face to face conversations with choir members and finalizing in videoing their time in Birmingham, including the workshops and venues SOCC will be performing at. | | | | |
| **Expenditure**  Hotel £7,000 / Travel £3,600 / Artistic Director £1,600 / Administration £1,600 / Cultural Tours & Lunches £1,510 / Publicity / Marketing £100 / Returned Deposits £350 / Contingency £200  Total = £15,960 | | | | |
| **Monitoring:**   * Feedback forms for our audiences in Birmingham * Events coordinator feedback * Video, photos and publicity of the tour | | | | |
| **Funding** | | | | |
| Total Project Cost £15,960  % of project cost recommended 5.6% | | | | |
| **Other Possible Funding Sources:** | | | | |
| Contributions already secured:   * Participants contribution, £8,600 * Donation, £1,000 * Other contributions, £510   Other funding being sought from:   * Watford Rural Parish Council, £1,500 * SOCC contribution, £tbc | | | | |
| **Application score**  The Priority Score is **56** because it meets 1 aims and 1 objective of the Strategic Plan as well as meeting 7 identified grant priorities.  The aims it matches are:  1.3 We will reduce health inequalities; promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisations.  The objectives it matches are:  1.3.1 Improve and facilitate access to leisure and recreational activities for adults  The identified grant priorities it meets are:   * Predominantly based on unpaid volunteers * Contributes to educating the community * New initiative, with no previous Three Rivers Grant funding (within the last 3 years) * Work with unrepresented groups * The applicant has secured at least 50% match funding towards the project * Works predominantly with residents living in areas of deprivation * 80% of people benefiting from the project are Three Rivers Residents | | | | |
| **Previous grants to organisation**  2012/13 - £2,500 Leisure Grant | | | | |
| **Recommendation**  That the Leisure, Wellbeing and Health Committee award a grant of £900to be used for the purpose listed above. | | | | |