



Grant Working Party 20 March 2014

Creating a Suffolk Community Foundation Sport Fund

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation

- 1.1 Suffolk Community Foundation have approach all Suffolk District Councils and the County Council with a proposal to establish a Suffolk Sport Fund.
- 1.2 Although not strictly a grant, the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Sport wishes to consult the Grant Working Party on its view on making a commitment to this fund.

2. Recommendation to Cabinet

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Grant Working Party indicate to Cabinet whether it supports a one-off allocation of £10,000 from the 2013/2014 underspend in Leisure, Culture and Communities as a contribution from St Edmundsbury Borough Council to a Suffolk Sport Fund to be administered by the Suffolk Community Foundation, as detailed in Section 4 of Report E325.

Contact details

Name

Title

Telephone

E-mail

Portfolio holder

Sara Mildmay-White

Portfolio Holder for Health,
Wellbeing and Sport

01359 270580

sara.mildmay@stedsbcc.gov.uk

Lead officer

Cathy Manning

Families and Communities
Manager

01284 757002

cathy.manning@westsuffolk.gov.uk

3. Strategic priorities

3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the West Suffolk Strategic Plan:

- (a) *'Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active'*; and
- (b) Vision 2025: St Edmundsbury will be a place:
V:He3 where local support networks for the whole community are on hand to provide advice on emotional and physical wellbeing

4. Key issues

4.1 Suffolk Community Foundation has put forward a proposal to establish a Sport Fund for Suffolk which it would administer. The proposal is based on a commitment of £70,000 from Suffolk County Council and £10,000 from each of the seven districts. If it gains this commitment of local government funding the Foundation will then go out and raise a further £140,000 through philanthropic giving to produce a total fund of £280,000. That initial fund would be invested to produce a yearly funding stream which sport groups within Suffolk could apply to. After the initial £140,000 is secured the Foundation would continue to raise funds to add to the long term sustainability of the cost. The local government funding would only be drawn down once Suffolk Foundation had secured the £140,000 of philanthropic giving.

4.2 The Foundation will work with local government to ensure sufficient sports related expertise is available to the panel assessing applications to this fund.

4.3 Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough and Babergh, Mid-Suffolk District, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have already committed their funding. The Cabinet of Forest Health will receive the same report at its meeting on 1 April 2014 with a similar recommendation.

4.4 If the fund is established, the Locality Officers working for the two West Suffolk authorities would promote its existence to local groups to encourage a good take-up from sport bodies in the west of the county.

4.5 Clearly this is not a grant application. However in the spirit of transparency, and valuing the views of the Grant Working Party as the body within the Council which has most experience of local grant giving, the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Sport has asked that this item be considered at this meeting, and that the views expressed by the Working Party be taken into account when the Cabinet reaches a decision.

5. Other options considered

5.1 Not to contribute which would potentially impact on the establishment of the overall fund.

6. Community impact

6.1 **Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

6.1.1 None

- 6.2 **Diversity and equality impact** *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*
- 6.2.1 Suffolk Community Foundation is an experienced grant making organisation which has well-established procedures to ensure that the grants process is open and accessible to all groups.
- 6.3 **Sustainability impact** *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*
- 6.3.1 If established, the fund would help support grass-roots sports groups which help provide local access to physical activity, so preventing the need for travel.
- 6.4 **Other impact** *(any other impacts affecting this report)*
- 6.4.1 None
- 7. Consultation** *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*
- 7.1 Officers have consulted with the Portfolio holder for Health, Wellbeing and Sport on this proposal.
- 8. Financial and resource implications** *(including asset management implications)*
- 8.1 The contribution would be made from underspends in the 2013/2014 Leisure, Culture and Communities budgets and is a one-off payment.
- 9. Legal and policy implications**
- 9.1 There is no legal or policy impediment to making such a contribution.
- 10. Wards affected**
- 10.1 The fund would be open to applications from all wards
- 11. Background papers**
- 11.1 Correspondence between Suffolk Community Foundation and Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group
- 12. Documents attached**
- 12.1 Appendix 1: Responses provided to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders by Suffolk Community Foundation

Responses provided to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders by Suffolk Community Foundation

1. Can Suffolk Foundation clarify the proposed Fund operating arrangements? Our understanding is that the £400k pot (including gift aid contributions) would be invested and the revenue generated would be the grant funding “pot” – is that correct? What is the anticipated return on investment and the grant funding available per annum from the Sports Fund?

Your understanding is correct. The initial ambition for the fund is £400k, however the Foundation is confident that we will continue to build this fund with private investors in the years to come as we know the concept of a sports fund resonates with a significantly large donor base. The fund would be invested to provide a sustainable grant stream – currently we aim to distribute 5% pa, but this can change depending upon investment returns.

2. How will Suffolk Foundation administer the fund to ensure that each Local Authority can demonstrate a return on its investment for communities and individuals within each district? It is accepted that there will not be equal distribution of grants or equal contributions from private donors in each district but in order to justify match funding, each District will need to be able to understand the return on investment in terms of local grant distribution or impact on its strategic priorities and outcomes in its localities or communities?
3. *The first point to make is that we will be leveraging in additional finance to support your stake – in the first phase we aim to add to the fund an additional £330,000 (a multiplier of 5.7 for each local authority). Secondly, we always aim to distribute all our funds equally and we are successful in achieving this against a per capita measurement benchmarking system that we currently utilise with disproportionate distribution monitored and action taken to realign. The third point to make is that restricting giving to a locality can actually ‘harm’ an area. For example if someone with a disability in Sudbury wishes to currently access a sports organisation that provides basketball or athletics, they would have to travel to Bury St Edmunds or Ipswich.*
4. How will grants be distributed to ensure that the following criteria are met:
 - a. Contribution to Suffolk Health and Wellbeing strategic outcomes
One of the reasons for introducing the fund is to compliment the H & W strategy, particularly around the prevention agenda. Grant guidelines would therefore reference and reflect the the H & W strategy.
 - b. Contribution to local priorities and strategic outcomes
All our grant-making responds to local needs (Hidden Needs was the first piece of research that highlighted this concept and moved away from averages). We are also very happy to continue to work with local authority and VCs partners to address local needs; this is a core objective for the Foundation.
 - c. Targeted to those most in need and who are not able to access sports through other means
As above, we are leading experts in this field. Importantly we are often the initial funder to new projects and organisations which allows us to help develop increased VCs services to areas where access is poor.

d. Local authority services locally are not duplicated – the Sports Fund needs to supplement public funded sports provision –
Is true of all our funding. Quality accredited operational service standards are geared towards outcome based impact, value for money and providing much needed funding where financial opportunities are difficult. In our experience over the past year local authority funding to the VCS is falling and the risk of duplication is increasing limited.

5. What impact will these criteria and local return on investment requirements have on the ability of Suffolk Foundation to raise the private donations and what flexibilities would the Foundation require for distribution of funding in order to maximise potential for private donation?

The partnership working will in our experience help the Foundation attract local private finance. We have broad experience in using match-funding to lever in private investment both with our general endowment funds which has passed the £4m barrier or with campaigns such as Surviving Winter. The concept of 'all in it together' is a great catalyst for cross-sectional working.

T:\SEBC Democratic Services\Democratic WP Services\Committee\Reports\Grant Working Party\2014\14.03.20\E325
Creating a Suffolk Community Foundation Sport Fund.doc

