

By: Ben Watts, General Counsel
To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 30 September 2020
Subject: KCC Combined Member Grant
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Committee is invited to comment on and consider the following report relating to two Combined Member Grant matters – Combined Member Grant for Whitstable East and Herne Bay West and The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust County-Wide Application.

1. Combined Member Grant for Whitstable East and Herne Bay West

- 1.1 At the Selection and Member Services Committee on 29 July 2020 a proposal was considered and agreed to provide judgement on the Combined Member Grant for the Whitstable East and Herne Bay West division.
- 1.2 To date one application has been received from the Whitstable Castle Trust.
- 1.3 The application relates to arboriculture work and a request for funding to remove some trees in their play area for safety reasons. The project is due to commence in November 2020.
- 1.4 The Member Hub have checked the application form and conducted the necessary checks. This has included ensuring that the Trust is properly constituted and that the breakdown of spend conforms with the Combined Member Grant guidelines.
- 1.5 As part of the application process applicants are asked to provide details of any permissions required to implement a project. In this application permissions were sought from Canterbury City Council to progress and no objections were forthcoming.
- 1.6 The total request for grant funding in relation to this application is £2,650.

2. The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust – County Wide Application

- 2.1 The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust applied to the Combined Member Grant Scheme for a project which was circulated to all Members and attracted a high number of Member approvals.

- 2.2 The application relates to the Trust's Scramble experience, which uses audio-visual effects, a video wall and other special techniques to show what it was like for the Few in the summer and early autumn of 1940. The Trust has requested funding to replace the five existing projectors to new digital projectors which will provide a longer service life, in turn contributing to lower running costs as well as enhance the visitor experience.
- 2.3 The funding will also contribute to installation and additional associated costs that the Trust have incurred to make the experience COVID-secure.
- 2.4 One question was raised by a Member in relation to the requirement to pay for the Scramble experience and questioned if it brought wide community benefit as a result of that. The Member Hub consulted the applicant and they confirmed that concessions applied and that all funds raised by paid entry to the experience were reinvested into the Trust for wider community benefit.
- 2.5 The Member Hub have checked the application form and conducted the necessary checks. This has included ensuring that the Trust is properly constituted and that the breakdown of spend conforms with the Combined Member Grant guidelines. Additionally, the Member Hub Team Leader has checked all Member approvals for allocation of their fund and any disclosures; of which there were none.
- 2.6 The Combined Member Grant guidelines requests that Members spend their grant in their division, but it is permissible for two or more Members to pool all or some of their funding towards larger projects that have a benefit across more than one electoral division.
- 2.7 The total request for grant funding in relation to this application is £51,000 and is supported by 58 Members.
- 2.8 The total amount falls outside of the delegated sign-off limits and would then proceed to the Cabinet Member for Communications, Engagement and People to consider approval. The Leader and members of Cabinet have all pledged support for the application and therefore in turn prevents them from considering the application. The pragmatic solution is to bring the application and the decision before the Committee to consider approval.

Recommendation:

The Committee is requested to:

- a) Consider and provide a judgement on the following Combined Member Grant application:
 - i. The Whitstable Castle Trust
 - ii. The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust – County Wide Application

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Appendices:

1. The Whitstable Trust Application
2. The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust Application
3. List of Member's Supporting