

Agenda Item: OLD AND BOLD INITIATIVE
Report to: Finance and General Purposes Committee
Date: Wednesday 22nd June 2022
Subject: Old and Bold funding scheme

Recommendation:

To review the costings for the Old and Bold Initiative, derived from the Covid Recovery Working Group and approved by the Community Committee.

1. Background

The Old and Bold Bursaries initiative has grown out of discussions in both the post-COVID working group and the Community Committee.

2. Project Detail

The aim of this project is to equip fitness providers in Bexhill with expert qualifications to increase provision for older people to maintain fitness and strength, thus reducing isolation and potential frailty.

The proposal is that the town council funds the scheme, organised by Active Rother, which provides a bursary for ten fitness providers to gain an internationally recognised qualification, the YMCA Awards Level 3 Award in Adapting Exercise for Independently Active, Older People.

The course consists of four 3-hour online sessions spread out over three months plus three one-hour face to face sessions in Bexhill.

Applicants will have to be 16 years or over, already have at least three months experience, and appropriate level 2 qualifications.

3. Costs

In informal discussions, the proposal has been welcomed enthusiastically by Active Rother, who would be prepared to fund 75% of the cost.

The overall budget would be £ 4,000. This would cover the cost of the YMCA courses, advertising, selection, support, the three face to face sessions, and an evaluation to ensure that the money has been well spent and is going to reach the residents of Bexhill.

The Town Council would contribute £1000 towards the initiative.

The process would be managed by Active Rother and the Old and Bold Bursary would be promoted among providers and on public fora. Interested providers would apply for a bursary through an agreed application form.

A selection panel (under the auspice of Active Rother) would meet to review the applications and take the final decisions.

It is anticipated that the selection panel would be made up of a representative of the Town Council, plus Andy Wright from Active Sussex, Adrian Gaylon from Active Rother, and Zoe Ward from This Girl Can.

4. Governance and Administration

The Community Committee has the delegated power to consider the town council's involvement in local events in order to promote the work of the council and strengthen pride in the town.

As this event is the responsibility of Active Rother, the funds of £1000 would be transferred as part of a donation under the General Power of Competence.

5. Risk Assessment

As the project will be the ultimate responsibility of Active Rother, the risk assessment would be for this organisation to arrange. The town council should ensure that the selection criteria and published marketing suits its aims and objectives.

6. Decision Taken

The Community Committee decided to proceed with this project and the funds to be used from the Events Budget of £10,000.

7. Finance and General Purposes Committee

The committee is asked to review the project and expenditure.