

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

Date of Meeting: 30th October 2017
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
Subject/Title: Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Bates

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To determine the award of Community Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council. The Council recognises the valuable input that the Voluntary and Community Sector brings to the quality of life in the community. Grants are awarded to those organisations which meet the Council's Residents First Outcomes.
- 1.2 The report covers the third round of grants for 2017/18 and makes recommendations totalling £31,870 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants.
- 1.3 There are a total of 16 grants recommended to be awarded, contributing to £259,307 of project costs, 15 are recommended to be declined and 3 are recommended to be deferred to the next round.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the following Community Grants be awarded/declined/deferred as indicated:

Events	
Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Company	Awarded £1,000
Alsager Ladies Circle – One World	Declined
Home Start Central and West Cheshire	Declined
Macclesfield Barnaby Festival	Awarded £1,000
Wythenshawe Development Trust	Declined

Activities	
ADAPT (Audlem & District Acting Positively for Transition)	Awarded £350
Bollington Art Group	Declined
Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union	Declined
Cheshire Streetwise CIC	Awarded £500
Cheshire Youth Pantomime CHYPS	Declined
Crewe Parkrun	Declined
DOPE Male Performance Company (Cheshire Dance)	Deferred
Greenspaces South Cheshire CIC	Declined
Holmes Chapel and District Community Partnership	Declined
Macclesfield Art Group	Declined
MedEquip4Kids	Awarded £750
Red Dragon Karate	Awarded £1,000
Royal British Legion – Alsager Branch	Declined

Youth Support Service	Declined
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Facilities	
Adullam Social Enterprise	Awarded £5,000
Alsager Village Institute	Awarded £3,000
Dean Valley Primary School	Declined
Gawsworth Primary School	Deferred
Harrop Road Residents Group	Deferred
Morton Hall Community Centre	Awarded £954
Mow Cop, Mount Pleasant and Bank Village Hall	Awarded £2,000
Nantwich Elim Church	Awarded £1,000
Sandbach Rugby Union Club	Awarded £3,000
South West Cheshire Scouts – Milldale Scout Campsite	Awarded £3,500
Space4Autism	Awarded £4,266
The Abbeyfield Knutsford Society	Declined
What's Happening on North Street	Awarded £3,550
Wheelock Primary School	Declined
Wistaston Memorial Bowling Club	Awarded £1,000

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

Events:

Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Company

Total project cost £28,444	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Company require funding towards the production costs of their musical. Costs include props, sound and lighting, wardrobe, make up etc. The organisation has income from ticket sales, donations from elsewhere and is contributing. The organisation has received community grant funding for the past 3 consecutive years. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and advised to seek alternative funding for future years as community grants cannot be relied on as a regular source of income.

Alsager Ladies Circle – One World

Total project cost £2,335	Amount requested £500	Declined
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The proposed event date for the One World Festival is 14th October 2017. As the community grants decisions meeting is not until 30th October 2017 and the scheme is unable to fund retrospectively, it is recommended that they application is declined. The organisation was made aware of this on application and will apply next year for their event.

Homestart Central and West Cheshire

Total project cost £1,126	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The proposed event date was 8th August 2017. The community grants deadline was not until 29th September 2017 and as the scheme is unable to fund retrospectively, the application is declined. Funding was also requested for a day trip, which the scheme cannot fund. The group was made aware of these points upon application and invited to submit a new application for a different project before the deadline.

Macclesfield Barnaby Festival

Total project cost £31,862	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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Macclesfield Barnaby Festival requires funding to hold community art workshops which will be creative sessions, allowing participants to design, make and construct costumes and floats for the parade of the festival. Costs include fees for artists, musicians and costume makers. The

organisation has contributions from other organisations and in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Wythenshawe Development Trust

Total project cost £805	Amount requested £400	Declined
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Wythenshawe Development Trust has requested funding for a trip to see 'Dick Whittington'. Costs include tickets, transport, food and souvenirs. Unfortunately, none of these costs are able to be funded by the scheme and it is recommended that the application is declined.

Activities:

ADAPT (Audlem and District Acting Positively for Transition)

Total project cost £570	Amount requested £570	Awarded £350
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ADAPT received Participatory Budgeting money to develop a map promoting 30 routes for safe and healthy leisure cycling in South Cheshire. The group have now run out of map stock and require funding for a re-print. There are no other contributions towards the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 on the condition of securing the remaining project costs from other sources.

Bollington Art Group

Total project cost £1,162	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Bollington Art Group has requested funding towards new display boards. The group were awarded £700 towards replacement display panels in January 2017, therefore as this application is for the same equipment it is recommended that the application is declined.

Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union requires funding for resources to deliver a marketing campaign and to ensure staff and volunteers have the skills and expertise to offer members high quality financial services. The organisation has applied to the town partnerships for funding and they have a donation from Wulvern Housing. The application was deferred in the last round pending a breakdown of the project costs and information on other grant funding received over past 2 years. Nothing has been received; it is therefore recommended that the application is declined.

Cheshire Streetwise CIC

Total project cost £980	Amount requested £980	Awarded £500
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Cheshire Streetwise requires funding for health and safety training which will then allow them to run workshops that have been funded by Cheshire East Participatory Budgeting. The project will be unable to progress without the volunteers being health and safety trained. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 towards the project and that an application is made to the Town Council for additional support.

Cheshire Youth Pantomime Society (CHYPS)

Total project cost £25,658	Amount requested £927	Declined
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CHYPS is requesting funding for specialist coaching and mentoring to create costumes for the production of Beauty and the Beast.

Whilst this is a large production with income from ticket sales, and donations etc. the scheme is unable to fund volunteer expenses/time. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Crewe Parkrun

Total project cost £3,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Crewe Parkrun is applying for set up costs of a new parkrun event at the suggested venue of Queens Park. The organisation does not have its own bank account. The application was deferred in the last round to allow the group to set up an account in the organisation name. The organisation have re-submitted their application for this round, but the group still does not have its own account and the main Parkrun financial details have been included. It is recommended that the application is declined.

DOPE Male Performance Company/Cheshire Dance

Total project cost £6680	Amount requested £1,000	Deferred
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Dope Male Performance Company requires funding to run regular sessions and workshops for boys in street and hip hop dance. A full breakdown of the project costs has not been included. It is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round and that a breakdown of the project costs for the sessions is included.

Greenspaces South Cheshire CIC

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Greenspaces South Cheshire CIC has developed a 'Grow Hub' at a local community centre within the Sherbourne Estate for learning and growing healthy fruit and vegetables. Funding for current weekly sessions is due to come to an end in November. Costs include plants, seeds and craft materials and 6 activity days delivered by a sessional worker. The organisation is making a contribution. It is recommended that the application is declined due to a lack of sustainability of the project.

Holmes Chapel and District Community Partnership

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Holmes Chapel Community Partnership require funding to run a project offering individual, group and workshop support in areas such as anxiety, depression, anger, stress etc. A breakdown of the project costs was requested to gain a better insight into how the project will operate. A signed copy of the constitution has not been received. The application was deferred in the last round pending the receipt of this information, but nothing has been received. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Macclesfield Art Group

Total project cost £828	Amount requested £528	Declined
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Macclesfield Art Group is requesting funding to offer teaching sessions to members. The group will be contributing to the project but have not applied elsewhere. Macclesfield Art Group has received funding annually for over 5 consecutive years. It is recommended that the application is declined and that the group looks into seeking alternative funding and approaching the Town Council.

MedEquip4Kids

Total project cost £2,340	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £750
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MedEquip4Kids require funding for a clown to visit the children's ward at Macclesfield hospital which will help to bring together families during distressing times, distract children from their treatments and brightens the hospital environment. The organisation is not contributing to this project and does not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 on the condition of securing the remaining project costs from alternative funders and on the receipt of supporting documentation.

Red Dragon Karate

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,600	Awarded £1,000
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Red Dragon Karate is a newly established club and funding is required for safety equipment and soft floor matting for use during training. The club are making a contribution but have not applied elsewhere. More funding has been requested than the maximum that can be awarded for this category. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and that they approach the Town Council to help with the shortfall. The grant is to be awarded on the condition of receiving supporting documentation.

Royal British Legion – Alsager Branch

Total project cost £1,600	Amount requested £500	Declined
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The Alsager branch of the Royal British Legion require funding to publish a book 'Alsager and the Second World War' to help raise money for the 2017 Poppy Appeal. The project will not generate community activity or meet the criteria of the scheme. Profits from the sale of the book will be put towards the 2017 Poppy appeal and the conditions of the scheme state that general appeals or fundraising cannot be funded. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Youth Support Service

Total project cost £800	Amount requested £800	Declined
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The Youth Support Service has requested funding for a community garden project taking place at Crewe Fire Station. The scheme is unable to fund the project due to the Youth Support Service being a service within Cheshire East Council. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Facilities:

Adullam Social Enterprise

Total project cost £86,916	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Adullam Social Enterprise requires funding to turn a storage building (an old swimming pool) into a workshop. This space will then be used by volunteers (focusing on people with substance misuse issues, and local unemployed people to build employment skills, overcome social isolation and improve wellbeing) to develop practical skills to upcycle donated items. These will then be sold via a market outlet and pop up sites around Congleton. This is a large project with multiple grant applications being made as well as contributions from the organisation. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 on the condition of securing and evidencing the remaining project costs.

Alsager Village Institute

Total project cost £5,325	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,000
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Alsager Institute requires funding for improvements to their building which operates as one of the main community centre's in the Town, along with the Civic Centre. The project will enable the building to remain fit for purpose and help to attract new users. The organisation are making a small contribution to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 and that they apply to the Town Council and/or other funding sources for additional support.

Dean Valley Primary School

Total project cost £15,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Dean Valley Primary are requesting funding towards an outdoor shelter which will be used as a changing a group teaching area. The facility will also be used by Tytherington Football Club and Bollington Rainbows. Funding is also required towards a track around the playing field. The school do not have their own bank account and it is listed as Cheshire East Council. No supporting documentation has been submitted. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Gawsworth Primary School

Total project cost £18,990	Amount requested £5,000	Deferred
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Gawsworth Primary School is requesting funding towards an all weather pitch for the school which will also be available for community use at the weekend and evenings for football practice. The school is contributing as well as donations from the PTA. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending further information on the loss of the playing fields and implications from S106 money.

Harrop Road Residents Group

Total project cost £9,000	Amount requested £5,000	Deferred
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Harrop Road Residents Group require funding for play equipment to turn a derelict area into a community asset. The group are hoping for the land to be gifted from Bollington Town Council but this has not yet happened. It is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round, pending the transfer of the land, signed constitution and safeguarding policy.

Morton Hall Community Centre

Total project cost £25,730	Amount requested £954	Awarded £954
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Morton Hall Community Centre has recently undergone a large project to extend and fully refurbish their kitchen. Funding is now required for new kitchen china and cutlery. The centre is used by many different groups (toddlers, zumba, karate, art etc.). Once the centre has new china and cutlery there is the intention to start community lunches and breakfast clubs. The group have made a large contribution to the project themselves and had funding from the town council. It is recommended that they are awarded £954 on the condition of submitting an organisation safeguarding policy.

Mow Cop, Mount Pleasant & Bank Village Hall

Total project cost £3,000	Amount requested £3,000	Awarded £2,000
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The village hall has requested funding to insulate the ceilings to make the hall more attractive to users and reduce the damp and musty smell of the hall. Many users of the hall are older people who complain of the cold, damp atmosphere. The group have a small income towards the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 towards the project and they also seek funding from other organisations on the condition of submitting a signed constitution and safeguarding policy.

Nantwich Elim Church

Total project cost £1,824	Amount requested £1,824	Awarded £1,000
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Nantwich Elim Church requires funding for an indoor bowling alley for the 'Circle of Friends' dementia support group. The church has a small contribution but has not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and that they also apply to the Town Council for support.

Sandbach Rugby Union Club

Total project cost £15,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,000
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Sandbach Rugby Union Club requires funding to resurface the car park area to provide a multi sports surface for use by the local community and primary school. The club have already purchased the material to be installed and require a grant to cover the costs of hiring the required equipment to prepare and level the surface area prior to installation. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 and that they also seek support from the Town Council and other funding organisations.

South West Cheshire Scouts – Milldale Scout Campsite

Total project cost £17,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,500
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Milldale Scout Camp requires funding for archery and shooting shelters. Shelters will increase the utilisation of these activities especially during bad weather, and improve disabled access to both activities. The organisation has applied for grants from elsewhere and intends to bridge the shortfall by fundraising. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500.

Space4Autism

Total project cost £24,266	Amount requested £4,266	Awarded £4,266
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Space4Autism is requesting funding for furniture, fixtures and fittings for their new community café which will provide a safe environment for people with autism to meet new people, socialise, and make friends without worry or prejudice. The organisation is contribution to the project and has applied to other funding organisations as well as made links with other local groups and furniture re-use schemes. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,266.

The Abbeyfield Knutsford Society

Total project cost £50,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The Abbeyfield is a purpose build home providing independent living for elderly residents. Funding is required to build a front extension incorporating a lift between the ground and first floor which will improve health and safety and improve flexibility of the use of the house. The organisation is making a large contribution to the project, have a contribution from the Town Council, in kind contributions and will be applying to other funding organisations. It is recommended that the application is declined due to the project only benefitting the 11 residents of the home and not the wider community.

What's Happening On North Street

Total project cost £10,800	Amount requested £3,550	Awarded £3,550
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What's Happening on North Street have partitioned their room to create more community space, however this had led to problems due to heating and lighting not being on separate circuits therefore the heating and lighting cannot be independently controlled in each room. The organisation has funding from a number of other organisations and very little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,550.

Wheelock Primary School

Total project cost £5,584	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Wheelock Primary School have requested funding for all weather artificial grass to lay inside a willow dome built to provide a quiet area for children. Unfortunately, projects for the sole benefit of children from a school/college cannot be funded. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Wistaston Memorial Bowling Club

Total project cost £3,250	Amount requested £1,625	Awarded £1,000
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Wistaston Memorial Bowling Club require funding for a paved pathway from the entrance to the pavilion of the club. Access is currently across grass which can be slippery. A new path would provide much safer, easier access. The club are contributing half of the project costs themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and that they also apply to the parish council for support.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 The recommendations relate to all wards within Cheshire East

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Ward members

6.0 Policy Implications (including carbon reduction and health)

6.1 All of the applications contained in this report have been considered in the light of the Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants, and the recommendations on each one conform to that Policy.

7.0 Financial Implications (authorised by Chief Operating Officer)

7.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2017/18.

7.2 The Community Grants scheme is a discretionary use of Council Tax and general government grant, and that the allocation of expenditure is solely in accordance with a locally determined scheme.

7.3 Recommendations totalling £31,870 will be funded from the Partnerships and Communities team budget. The community grants base budget includes reserves from 2016/17 and additional growth funds.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Council has the power to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably. A grant policy is a clear statement of the criteria that the Council is applying and is essential if the Council is to defend any challenge to its decision making process.

8.2 Cabinet has approved and Cheshire East Council has put in place a Policy for the Allocation of Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations 2017/18. This Policy deals with the allocation of community grants which are awarded to defined Organisations following an application process and against set criteria. There are conditions requiring that Organisations report back to the Council upon expenditure of the grant and to enable further appropriate conditions to be imposed. The decision making process was delegated to the Portfolio Holder in order to ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

8.3 Grant funding to organisations based on the application of the Council's grant policy satisfies the Council's public law duties.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 The risk of not agreeing an approach to funding the community and voluntary sector is that some organisations may be unable to continue their activities, resulting in a loss of community benefit. This is a particular issue during an economic downturn when other funding sources may not be available.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 Applications received and allocated in accordance with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Lynsey Cooper

Designation: Community Resilience Officer

Tel No: 01270 685809

Email: lynsey.cooper@cheshireeast.gov.uk