

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

---

**Date of Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011  
**Report of:** Head of Policy & Performance  
**Subject/Title:** Policy for the Allocation of Grants for 2011/12  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor David Brown

---

### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To enable Cheshire East Council to continue with its community grants scheme for the next and subsequent financial years, a policy needs to be agreed and maximum funding amounts set.
- 1.2 In addition, a number of decisions need to be made as regards funding allocations to infrastructure organisations and on the future funding for other organisations which are currently the responsibility of the Performance & Partnerships service.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To adopt the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants and to agree the maximum amounts payable under the scheme for 2011/12 be as follows:

Facilities	£3,000
Activities	£500
Events	£250

- 2.2 To agree to the funding allocations for key infrastructure groups for the forthcoming year.
- 2.3 To agree to transfer responsibility for a number of payments from/to Performance & Partnerships and other service departments.

### 3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Community Grants policy was adopted for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 and applications were invited from organisations who met the criteria. The Council recognises the valuable input that the voluntary and community sector brings to the quality of life in the community and the scheme has enabled funding to be focused on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan. A large number of organisations have received funding over recent months which has enabled a wealth of community activity to take place. A similar demand for funding is anticipated in the future. The scheme now needs minor amendment if it is to be adopted for

coming years and it is suggested the maximum grant amounts be reviewed. The draft scheme is appended to this report.

3.2 On LGR, funding for a number of infrastructure and key community organisations became the responsibility of the Partnerships team. Previous funding commitments were honoured for 2009/10 and 2010/11 to enable a review of funding to be undertaken. As a result of this review, it is recommended that funding continue for a number of organisations and that funding agreements be put in place for 2011/12. The Organisations receiving funding are:

- (a) Community & Voluntary Service Cheshire East
- (b) Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre
- (c) Cheshire Association of Local Councils
- (d) Cheshire Community Council
- (e) Cheshire Gypsy & Travellers Voice
- (f) Cheshire East Citizens Advice Bureau South
- (g) Cheshire East Citizens Advice Bureau North
- (h) Valley Green Community Association

3.3 During recent months, a Council wide review has been undertaken of funding to the sector with an initial aim of rationalising funding agreements, eliminating duplication and looking to common processes. As a result of this work, it is suggested that a number of grants previously administered by the Partnerships Team would be more appropriately the responsibility of other services. As part of this work, a small number of organisations have been identified which, it is suggested, transfer to/from Performance & Partnerships and work be undertaken establishing new funding agreements as soon as possible. All organisations proposed for transfer are detailed in the following table:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Current service</b>	<b>Proposed Service</b>
Home Start Central Cheshire	Performance & Partnerships	Children & Families
Wingate Special Children's Trust	Performance & Partnerships	Children & Families
Survive	Performance & Partnerships	Children & Families
CLASP	Performance & Partnerships	Children & Families
Bethel Baptist Church	Performance & Partnerships	Children & Families
Crewe Women's Aid	Performance & Partnerships	Children & Families
Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union	Performance & Partnerships	Regeneration
Christian Concern	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Iris Vision Resource Centre	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Age Concern	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Disability Resource Exchange	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Alzheimer's Society	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Samaritans	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Autism Networks	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Vision Support	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Central Cheshire Alcohol Services	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Cheshire Carers Centre	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
Speaking Up/Speaking Out	Performance & Partnerships	Adults
OCEAN	Adults	Performance & Partnerships
Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre	Adults	Performance & Partnerships
Cheshire Community Action	Regeneration	Performance & Partnerships

#### **4 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 - Climate change - Health**

6.1 Positive impact

6.2 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 conforms to that Policy.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

7.1 The recommendations will enable grants from 2011/2012 to be funded within existing budget provision

#### **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

8.1 In awarding grants, the Council must ensure that in each case it has the legal power to fund the proposed scheme. In all cases there is a condition requiring a report back to the Council on the expenditure of the grant. Consideration should also be given in each case to the imposition of other appropriate conditions.

8.2 The Council's legal powers for awarding these grants are contained in various statutes, including Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. In addition the Council should ensure that there is a transparent process and policy in respect of determining the level of grant subsidy to any community group.

#### **9.0 Risk Management**

9.1 The risk of not agreeing an approach to funding the community & 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 A decision is required to enable the allocation of grants to voluntary and community organisations in 2011/12.

## **12.0 Access to Information**

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

Name: Zandra Neeld

Designation: Partnerships Manager

Tel No: 01270 686622

Email: [zandra.neeld@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:zandra.neeld@cheshireeast.gov.uk)