

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of Meeting: 14th May 2012
Report of: Partnerships Manager
Subject/Title: Policies for the Allocation of Grants and Funding to Infrastructure Organisations for 2012/13

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To incorporate Community-led Planning funding into the Community Grants Scheme for the next and subsequent financial years.
- 1.2 To enable Cheshire East Council to formally agree its approach to funding infrastructure organisations that provide support to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) and Local Councils in the Borough.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity
 - (1) adopt the amended policy for the allocation of Community Grants and agree the additional amounts payable under the scheme for 2012/13 as follows:
 - Community-led Plan Starter Grant - £250
 - Community-led Plan Development Grant - £500
 - (2) adopt the policy for the allocation of Funding to Infrastructure Organisations.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Community Grants Policy was adopted for the financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 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 which has enabled a wealth of community activity to take place. A similar demand for funding is anticipated in the future. A draft policy is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.2 The Partnerships team work closely with infrastructure organisations across the Borough, who offer support to the VCFS and Local Councils. The purpose of the funding is to increase the capacity and capability of the VCFS and the Local Councils across Cheshire East. A draft policy is attached at Appendix 2.

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 carbon reduction and health

- 6.1 Positive impact

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 The recommendations will enable grant applications for 2012/2013 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 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 A decision is required to enable the allocation of grants to voluntary and community organisations and funding to infrastructure organisations in 2012/13.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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