

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting:	30 th July 2012
Report of:	Partnerships Manager
Subject/Title:	Policy for the Allocation of Grants
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1.1 To amend the existing policy for the allocation of Community Grants. This will allow applications to be accepted from Town & Parish Councils, in order for them to hold funds on behalf of establishing Community Led Planning groups, for the next and subsequent financial years.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 To adopt the amended policy for the allocation of Community Grants that allows applications to be accepted from Town and Parish Councils.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 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. The draft Policy is appended to this report.

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 - 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 Town and Parish Councils to hold funds on behalf of establishing Community Led Planning groups.

11.0 Access to Information

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

Name: Lynsey Cooper

Designation: Local Area Partnership Administrator

Tel No: 01270 685809

Email: lynsey.cooper@cheshireeast.gov.uk