

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 22nd July 2013
Report of: Kirstie Hercules
Subject/Title: Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: David Brown, Strategic Communities

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants 2013/14 (the Policy) has been updated and Cabinet is asked to consider the Policy for approval and adoption.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants 2013/14 be approved and adopted.
- 2.2 That the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Communities (or whichever Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Community Grants at the time of making the grants decisions) be responsible for the awarding of Community Grants and be given delegated authority to approve applications for grants from local organisations to assist in developing community-based activities and projects in accordance with the Policy.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Policy sets out the governance arrangements, procedures and monitoring process to be followed when awarding a Community Grant..

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Within current budgets – there are no additional financial implications.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Council has the powers 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.

8.2 The Constitution states as follows:

F31 The Cabinet Member will on a periodical basis, agree a policy setting down the approach to be taken to the allocation of grants, donations and other contributions to outside bodies. This should specify the scale, nature and terms of such support, criteria for prioritisation and the process for allocation.

8.3 This Policy deals with the allocation of community grants and will regularise the position in accordance with the Constitution and reflect that community grants are awarded to defined Organisations following an application process and against a set criteria. Delegation of the decision making process to the Portfolio Holder with ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

8.4 Grants fall outside the public procurement regime. There is a narrow line between awarding a grant and commissioning services. In awarding a grant the Council cannot exhibit the same amount of control over the organisation as is commensurate with a contract. Essentially, the terms of the grant should set out what the purpose of the grant is for and only claim claw back provisions in the case of the grant funding being used for other purposes or otherwise improperly. Otherwise, the Council will not be able to assess the quality of the services that are being provided and determine to withdraw grant funding on that basis (except at the end of the period of the grant funding).

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 There are no specific risks identified.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The Council has operated a Community Grants Scheme within the local authority boundaries. This Policy addresses the governance arrangements, procedures and monitoring process to be followed when awarding a Community Grants..

10.2 All sections of the Policy have been reviewed and refreshed in order to bring the Policy up to date, in accordance with legal guidance, and provide

comprehensive guidance for those Organisations wishing to apply to the Community Grants Scheme.

- 10.3 The aim of the Policy is to support Organisations (which for the purposes of the Policy include voluntary and community groups, registered charities or other not for profit organisations) with small scale projects, events and activities and community led planning that will improve the quality of life for local communities.
- 10.4 When using the term grants in the Policy it refers to the giving of a fixed amount of Council funds to Organisations through an application and assessment process which takes place 4 times each financial year.
- 10.5 Cabinet is invited to approve and adopt the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants 2013/14 and to delegate authority to the Strategic Communities Portfolio Holder, (or whichever Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Community Grants at the time of making the grants decisions), to award Community Grants.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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