

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 27th July 2015
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
Subject/Title: Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor L Gilbert

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. Funding is focussed on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The report covers the second round of grants for 2015/16 and makes recommendations totalling £44,680 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

Events

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Alsager Garden's Association | Awarded £150 |
| Beartown Patchwork and Quilters | Deferred |
| Congleton Musical Theatre | Awarded £1,000 |
| Foden's Brass Band | Awarded £600 |
| Macclesfield Pioneering Women | Awarded £300 |
| Middlewich Vision | Awarded £1,000 |
| OCEAN | Awarded £1,000 |

Activities

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Centre Stage Youth Theatre | Awarded £750 |
| Cheshire Streetwise CIC | Awarded £500 |
| Disley Arts Society | Declined |
| Friends of Pebble Brook | Declined |
| Jude Theatre Company CIC | Awarded £720 |
| Juel Entertainers | Awarded £500 |
| Macclesfield Academy Learning Community | Awarded £1,000 |
| Macclesfield Art Group | Awarded £410 |
| Macclesfield Community Artspace | Awarded £1,000 |
| Middlewich Good Neighbours | Awarded £500 |
| Mobility and Access Group (MAG) | Awarded £1,000 |
| Moss Rose Junior Football Team | Awarded £500 |
| Polish Domestic Violence Helpline | Awarded £1,000 |
| Poynton and District Rotary Club | Awarded £750 |
| Sandbach Striders Running Club | Awarded £500 |

Facilities

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 17 th South West Cheshire Scout Group | Awarded £5,000 |
| Alsager Community Church | Awarded £2,000 |
| Brook Street Chapel | Declined |
| Disley Baptist Church | Awarded £5,000 |
| Edge Inclusion Partnership CIC | Declined |
| Friends of Stanley Hall Park | Awarded £3,000 |
| Haslington Cricket Club | Awarded £2,500 |
| Poynton Methodist Church | Awarded £3,000 |
| Poynton Youth and Community Centre | Awarded £4,000 |
| St Mary's Church, Nantwich | Awarded £5,000 |
| Wheelock Pre-School | Awarded £2,000 |

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1

Events:

Alsager Garden's Association

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total project cost £1,350 | Amount requested £350 | Amount awarded £150 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|

Alsager Gardens Association applies annually towards their annual show. Funding was awarded last year towards advertising and bouquets for the guests. We are unable to provide repeat funding or provide funding to offset losses. They do have contributions from elsewhere and are contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £150 towards their printing costs.

Beartown Patchwork and Quilters

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total project cost £1,637 | Amount requested £100 | Deferred |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|

Beartown Patchwork and Quilters are holding an exhibition of members work. Funding is required towards printing and publicity costs. The group are contributing the remainder of the project costs themselves. As the event is not due to take place until summer 2016 and the group have not submitted the bank account figures or a safeguarding policy, it is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round pending the receipt of this information.

Congleton Musical Theatre

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £17,340 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Congleton Musical Theatre require funding towards sound and lighting hire costs for their production that is currently being rehearsed and will be performed in October. The majority of the costs are being funded by ticket sales and there is a contribution from organisation funds and the town council. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Foden's Brass Band

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £2,800 | Amount requested £800 | Awarded £600 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Foden's Brass Band are holding a solo and quartet contest which attracts around 170 competitors, attracts local community members to the audience and local residents help to run the event. Costs of the event include trophies, printing, advertising, pianist costs. The group are contributing themselves and will have income from ticket costs as well as sponsorship. It is recommended that they are awarded £600 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

Macclesfield Pioneering Women

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £1,582 | Amount requested £300 | Awarded £300 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Macclesfield Pioneering Women require funding towards the costs of external speakers attending their event to showcase the achievements of local women in Macclesfield, as well as their contributions to the history and culture of the area. The group will be contributing to the event themselves and have sponsorship and donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £300.

Middlewich Vision

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £3,390 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Middlewich Vision requires funding for the delivery of a writing and creative skills festival aimed at encouraging writing and literary skills. Costs include advertising, printing, workshops and design/content of website. The group are contributing themselves and they have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

OCEAN

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £2,838 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

OCEAN is holding a two day event to celebrate Black History Month. Funding is required towards advertising, printing, performers and a DJ. They are contributing to the event themselves and have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Activities:

Centre Stage Youth Theatre

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £12,770 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £750 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|

Centre Stage Youth Theatre is performing 'Starlight Express' which will be performed on wheels. Funding is required towards costumes (roller-skates and knee/elbow pads) and props/scenery. The group are contributing themselves and have income from ticket sales. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that funding from other sources is sought towards remaining project costs.

Cheshire Streetwise CIC

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £868 | Amount requested £868 | Awarded £500 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Cheshire Streetwise require funding to provide music activities for young people with learning difficulties with an aim of improving speech and communication, listening skills, motor skills through dancing etc. Costs include a bubble machine, microphone, lighting, mixer desk etc. The organisation are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they seek support from other funding organisations.

Disley Arts Society

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total project cost £500 | Amount requested £500 | Declined |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|

Disley Arts Society applies annually and has requested funding towards art demonstrations and towards life models. Last year, training dvds were funded. The group have little income but have raised some funds through a coffee morning, they have not applied elsewhere. Due to the amount of funding awarded in the past to this organisation, in consecutive years, it is recommended that they seek funding from alternative sources for their project and that the application is declined.

Friends of Pebble Brook

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total project cost £938 | Amount requested £938 | Declined |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|

Friends of Pebble Brook require funding to offer parents the opportunity to plan, prepare and make a healthy family meal with their children once a week. Families will be targeted. The group are not contributing to the project and have no other contributions. As this project is not accessible to the wider community and is for the benefit of pupils of a school, it is recommended that the application is declined and that support is sought from the local housing association.

Jude Theatre Company

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £1,742 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £720 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|

Jude Theatre Company requires funding for lead artist fees for the delivery of a theatre programme, aimed at over 18s with learning difficulties or disabilities. The theme will be developing skills towards greater independence through role play. The group are not contributing to the project themselves, and do not have contributions from elsewhere but have got in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £720 towards the project and that they also seek support from other funding organisations.

Juel Entertainers

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £4,700 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £500 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|

Juel Entertainers are a new dance group that are applying for funding towards the costs of costumes for their dancers which are needed for an upcoming presentation evening and throughout the year at shows and competitions. The group are contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 (subject to receipt of safeguarding policy) to help with establishment of the group and that that also apply to the Town Council.

Macclesfield Academy Learning Community

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £1,750 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Macclesfield Academy Learning Community require funding to run a summer school for 1 week during the summer break with an aim of reducing anti-social behaviour on the estate through the summer. Costs include music tutors and coach costs. A contribution is being made to the project but they have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 towards the music element of the project as travel costs cannot be funded.

Macclesfield Art Group

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £1,640 | Amount requested £410 | Awarded £410 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Macclesfield Art Group require funding to purchase exhibition lighting to enhance their display panels when space limitations create shadowed areas during exhibitions. The group are contributing towards the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £410 and that they apply elsewhere to avoid depleting their reserves.

Macclesfield Community Artspace

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £1,640 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Macclesfield Community Artspace requires funding for equipment to carry out a digital art project which will involve intergenerational activities with the use of technology. Costs include a computer, printer, camera, paper, advertising etc. The group are contributing themselves, despite very little reserves and have donations that have been received throughout the year. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Middlewich Good Neighbours

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £1,200 | Amount requested £950 | Awarded £500 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Middlewich Good Neighbours require funding to improve their website, meaning that they could reach more people and aim to engage with younger people to encourage volunteering. An improved website will also allow them to reach people with limited mobility. The group are making a contribution themselves but have no other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 towards the project and that they also seek support from other funding organisations such as the Town Council.

Mobility and Access Group

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £2,000 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Mobility and Access Group require funding for a computer, sewing equipment and for the initial set up costs of a luncheon club with an aim of helping the group to develop. Application was deferred in April pending receipt of bank account information which has now been received. The group have a contribution from comic relief. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 to help establishment of the group.

Moss Rose Junior Football Team

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £964 | Amount requested £964 | Awarded £500 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Moss Rose Junior Football Team require funding towards equipment such as goal nets, whistles, first aid kits, barriers etc. The group are not contributing themselves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they £500 and seek support from other funding organisations.

Polish Domestic Violence Helpline

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £92,704 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £1,000 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

The Polish Domestic Violence Helpline is newly established and requires funding to assist with their phone line costs and running costs. They are actively applying elsewhere to help with establishment costs and currently have no reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Poynton and District Rotary Club

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £2,500 | Amount requested £750 | Awarded £750 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

Poynton and District Rotary Club is undertaking a project to train shop, service desk and public building staff in Poynton to understand the difficulties of those with hearing loss. Costs of the project are for training sessions provided by Action for Hearing Loss. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750.

Sandbach Striders Running Club

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total project cost £3,000 | Amount requested £1,000 | Awarded £500 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|

Sandbach Striders require funding towards the one-off cost to establish Park Run events in Sandbach. The payment is to Park Run UK and they are then provided with standardised equipment and training. Parkrun events are community led running events formed for increasing community cohesion which gives participants the opportunity to broaden their social circle. The group have applied to other organisations but are not contributing themselves due to little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 on the condition of securing the remaining project costs and they apply to Sandbach Town Council also.

Facilities:

17th South West Cheshire Scout Group

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £33,074 | Amount requested £5,000 | Awarded £5,000 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

17th South West Cheshire Scout Group requires funding to demolish and rebuild their stores area which is used to house camping equipment. The new area will contain storage space, a toilet, tent drying area and a multi-use space to use as a rifle range. The group have raised funds to contribute to the project and have applied to other organisations. They have already received a Giveback grant towards this project therefore; it is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 on the condition that it is spent of different elements of the project to the Giveback grant.

Alsager Community Church

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £3,845 | Amount requested £3,345 | Awarded £2,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Alsager Community Church requires funding to install a water supply and drainage into their community support centre. Providing hand washing facilities for volunteers would enable the food bank to offer fresh fruit and vegetables and volunteers could have refreshment and washing up facilities on site. The church are making a small contribution but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and that they also seek support from other funding organisations.

Brook Street Chapel

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total project cost £7,894 | Amount requested £7,894 | Declined |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|

Brook Street Chapel needs to replace some of the oak beams which have been damaged by a death watch beetle infestation. If the work is not carried out, the building will not be safe for community activity such as women's groups, drama groups, concerts etc. Due to safety issues, the work has already been carried out. As the scheme is unable to fund retrospectively, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Disley Baptist Church

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Total project cost £9,724 | Amount requested £5,000 | £5,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|

Disley Baptist Church is applying for funding to create a safe, attractive outdoor area behind their building to benefit the surrounding community and the community groups that attend the church such as tots time, a dads group, youth club etc. The group have applied to many other organisations for funding and will be contributing to the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 subject to the successful outcome of applications made to other sources.

Edge Inclusion Partnership CIC

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total project cost £11,220 | Amount requested £5,000 | Declined |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|

Edge Inclusion Partnership CIC delivers family support services to families with children with special needs. The organisation requires funding to set up an office base in Cheshire East as team members currently work from home. An office space would enable the group to host meetings with families and will provide a free drop in space for the community that have worries or concerns about the needs of their children. The group will be contributing the remaining project costs themselves but they have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that the application is declined due to service users being charged and the organisation being in receipt of funding through various Council contracts in which all operational costs are covered.

Friends of Stanley Hall Park

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £4,712 | Amount requested £4,112 | Awarded £3,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Friends of Stanley Hall Park require funding to make improvements to the park including a picnic area which will be paved with picnic benches. This forms part of a longer, 5 year plan to improve the facilities of the park. The group have little reserves but do have some funds

through fundraising. They have not applied anywhere else. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 towards the project and that they seek support from other sources.

Haslington Cricket Club

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £5,500 | Amount requested £5,000 | Awarded £2,500 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Haslington Cricket Club requires funding to purchase new mowers for the field. Existing mowers are broken and the grass cannot be cut, meaning the field cannot be used. The ground is open for community use, including schools. The club are making a contribution but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded half of the remaining costs of £2,500 and that match funding is sought from other funding providers.

Poynton Methodist Church

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £4,951 | Amount requested £4,451 | Awarded £3,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Poynton Methodist Church requires funding to upgrade meeting rooms with new flooring and furniture. The rooms are used daily through the church and a wide range of community groups. The church is making a small contribution to the project, despite large reserves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 towards the project and that they seek support from other funding organisations.

Poynton Youth and Community Centre

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £13,100 | Amount requested £5,000 | Awarded £4,000 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Poynton Youth and Community Centre require funding for the modernisation of the electrical system and fire alarm system. Due to safety concerns, the building is currently closed and groups have been forced to seek alternative accommodation. The centre is contributing to the project, has a fundraising plan in place and has a donation. In order to bring this centre back into use it is recommended that they are awarded £4,000 and that they approach the Town Council.

St Mary's Church, Nantwich

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £126,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Awarded £5,000 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

St Mary's Church is undertaking a large project to install toilets and disabled access to the church to provide better facilities for the wide range of community users that visit the church. The toilets will not only serve those visitors of the church but also to Nantwich. This is a large project with a large contribution coming from the church itself as well as many funding applications that the church has been successful with. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 on the condition of securing funding for the rest of the project costs.

Wheelock Pre-School

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total project cost £4,890 | Amount requested £4,890 | Awarded £2,000 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Wheelock pre-school is applying for funding for toilet renovation with an aim of making the building more desirable for community groups. The building is used by cubs, scouts, toddler groups and a choir group. The group are not contributing to the project themselves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 on the conditions of:

- Applying to other funding sources.
- Showing support from other users of the building to demonstrate wider community benefit than just those attending the preschool.
- Providing proof of support for a lease extension from the building landlord.

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 2015/16

8.0 Legal Implications (authorised by Borough Solicitor)

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. 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 2015/16. 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 ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

8.3 Grant funding 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: Partnerships Officer

Tel No: 01270 685809

Email: lynsey.cooper@cheshireeast.gov.uk