

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 24th April 2017
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
Subject/Title: Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Bates

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. Grants are awarded to those organisations which meet the Council's Residents First Outcomes.
- 1.2 The report covers the first round of grants for 2017/18 and makes recommendations totalling £37,031 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants. The applications are to be considered post approval of the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants dated April 2017. The changes to the Policy have made no difference to the outcomes of the grant applications.
- 1.3 There are a total of 28 grants recommended to be awarded, contributing to £249,566 of project costs, 13 recommended to be declined and 2 recommended to be deferred to the next round.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

Events

Wild Rumpus CIC	Awarded £1,000
SWC Scouts – Milldale Campsite	Declined
Congleton Community Projects	Awarded £165
Musical Moments	Declined
Nantwich Food and Drink Festival Limited	Awarded £1,000
Nantwich Film Club	Awarded £900
Organisation Caring for Ethnic and All Nations	Declined
Radway Community Group	Declined
Knutsford Promenades Association	Awarded £1,000
Ernest Cope Centre	Awarded £1,000
Total	£5,065

Activities

Disley Arts Society	Awarded £300
Project INC	Awarded £500
Congleton Pentecostal Church	Awarded £340

The Reporters Academy	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Junior Netball Club	Awarded £1,000
The Alderley Edge Orchestra	Awarded £500
Changing Lanes (Cheshire) CIC	Declined
Haslington Amateur Theatrical Society	Awarded £396
Central Cheshire Buddies Scheme	Awarded £200
Warrior Martial Arts	Awarded £750
Crewe FC	Awarded £300
Poole Methodist Church and Quiet Garden	Awarded £1,000
Friends for Leisure	Awarded £1,000
Poynton Golden Memories Group	Awarded £880
Saint Michaels Entertainers	Declined
Friends of St Barnabas	Deferred
SOL Theatre School	Declined
Total	£8,166

Facilities

Broad Lane Coffee Club	Declined
Sandbach Cricket Club	Awarded £3,000
1 st Handforth Scout Group	Awarded £2,500
Nether Alderley Primary Academy	Declined
Friends of Stanley Hall Park	Deferred
Canalside's Phase One Training	Awarded £3,000
Macclesfield Town Ladies Football Team	Awarded £2,000
Team Chongi Academy	Declined
Crewe Heritage Centre	Awarded £3,000
Rode Heath Village Hall	Awarded £1,000
Holmes Chapel Community Preschool	Declined
Wheelock Methodist Church	Declined
Christ Church Alsager	Awarded £3,000
The Wishing Well Project	Awarded £3,300
Friends of Prestbury Youth Club	Declined
Goostrey Preschool	Awarded £3,000
Total	£23,800

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Wild Rumpus

Total project cost £10,800	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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Wild Rumpus are holding a festival focussed on sustainable living. The aim is to create a green action plan to mitigate the environmental impact of the event and create debate and raise awareness of ecological issues. It is expected that 2,000 families will attend the festival. They are contributing themselves and have applied for other grants. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

South West Cheshire Scouts – Milldale Campsite

Total project cost £19,200	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The campsites are holding their bi-annual district camp for South West Cheshire Scout Groups which takes place over 3 days. They have £18,000 from attendance fees and wish to include an additional element of specialist equipment and performers. As the costs of attendance should cover the cost of the camp it is recommended the application is declined.

Congleton Community Projects

Total project cost £740	Amount requested £740	Awarded £165
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The group wish to introduce 2 public all day creative arts workshops as part of the Congleton Community Food and Drink Festival, which will be held at the Electric Picture House. They are not contributing to this project but do have a number of income streams to the wider festival. It is recommended they are awarded £500.

Musical Moments

Total project cost £900	Amount requested £900	Declined
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The group would like to offer the chance to run a singing group to live music in Congleton for people living with dementia and their carers to attend. They are proposing to run 8 sessions and if the group is successful apply for more grant funding to continue. They are not contributing themselves and have no other sources of funding to cover the costs of the sessions. As the sessions are not sustainable it is recommended the application is declined.

Nantwich Food and Drink Festival Limited

Total project cost £99,000	Amount requested £3,000	Awarded £1,000
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The group need to have additional toilet facilities to accommodate the expected 40,000 visitors over the 3 days of the festival. They have applied for £3,000 in the facilities category but their project falls under the events category which has a maximum amount of £1,000. They are a first time applicant, are contributing themselves and have reserves to cover the shortfall. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Nantwich Film Club

Total project cost £6,804	Amount requested £900	Awarded £900
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The club wish to hold a film club festival in Nantwich with expected numbers attending of over 250 people. The festival will take place in a number of venues around Nantwich and will include screenings, competitions and workshops and it is hoped to become an annual event. They are a first time applicant, are contributing themselves and have funding from other sources. It is recommended they are awarded £900 as a contribution towards match funding for the mobile vintage cinema, on condition of supplying a copy of their safeguarding policy.

Organisation Caring for Ethnic and All Nations (OCEAN)

Total project cost £2,700	Amount requested £950	Declined
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OCEAN are hosting their annual Black History Month event, which they received funding for in the previous financial year. They have not returned any monitoring information for this grant. As the scheme cannot provide repeat funding it is recommended the application is declined.

Radway Community Group

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The group are requesting funding for the cost of their Christmas panto. They are not contributing themselves and have not applied elsewhere and are asking for some elements which the scheme cannot fund. They do not have their own bank account which means that they do not meet the criteria to apply. It is recommended the application is declined.

Knutsford Promenades Association

Total project cost £15,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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The association participated in the first Heritage Open Days for Knutsford in 2016 and wish to develop the event further to become sustainable through commercial sponsorship and other sources. To help develop the new initiative it is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Ernest Cope Centre

Total project cost £3,447	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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The Ernest Cope Centre wish to host the second Armed Forces Day event to establish the Crewe Military Festival as an annual event and are requesting funding towards craft materials, marquee and portaloos hire, advertising and entertainment. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 towards the cost of the marquee and portaloos hire.

3.2 Activities:

Disley Arts Society

Total project cost £350	Amount requested £350	Awarded £300
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The Art Society wish to provide tutorials for new members, with most of their members being over the age of 65 years they have a high turnover of members and would like to offer demonstrations in different types of painting. They are not contributing themselves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £300.

Project INC

Total project cost £999	Amount requested £999	Awarded £500
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This newly formed organisation (Oct 2016) wishes to purchase a computer design based embroidery sewing machine and surface printing equipment for students at Project INC at the Silk Museum. They are a first time applicant. They are not contributing themselves and do not have any other funding sources. It is recommended they are awarded £500 and asked to apply to the Town Council.

Congleton Pentecostal Church

Total project cost £500	Amount requested £340	Amount Awarded £340
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The church wishes to purchase craft materials and promotional materials to advertise the children's summer holiday club held at the church and open to all children in the community. They are contributing themselves. It is recommended they are awarded £340.

The Reporters Academy

Total project cost £14,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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The Academy are proposing to give 5 young people living in care in Cheshire East, scholarships on a year long training course to gain hands on experience of media. This will give them the opportunity for employability, work-readiness training, media and film making workshops, learn to interview, record, film, edit footage and gain employment. They are working with CEC Virtual School Team and are a first time applicant. They have secured funding through Awards for All, have their own fundraising and in-kind contributions. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield Junior Netball Club

Total project cost £2,355	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £1,000
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The netball club wish to implement functional movement screening in response to noticing a lack of basic movement skills, critical to a child's development that can cause injuries in young athletes. They have already secured some funding and have more fundraising plans in place as well as a small charge to members. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

The Alderley Edge Orchestra

Total project cost £3,068	Amount requested £500	Awarded £500
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The orchestra wish to replace their manual timpani with a pedal timpani in order to make rapid changes of tuning during a performance and maintain their professional standards as a modern symphony orchestra. They are funding the vast majority of project costs through their own fundraising and other grants. It is recommended they are awarded £500.

Changing Lanes (Cheshire) CIC

Total project cost £6,367	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The Group are applying for ongoing costs to sustain their established groups in Crewe and are asking for funding towards annual room hire, facilitators travel expenses, refreshments, admin costs, insurance and running costs of the helpline, none of which can be funded under the community grants scheme. It is recommended the application is declined.

Haslington Amateur Theatrical Society

Total project cost £845	Amount requested £396	Awarded £396
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The group have previously had printing completed free of charge but are no longer able to receive this. As printing costs are prohibitive they are looking to purchase their own printer with low operating costs and lifetime warranty. They are a first time applicant, are contributing themselves and have negotiated a discount from the supplier. It is recommended they are awarded £396 on condition of supplying their safeguarding policy.

Central Cheshire Buddies Scheme

Total project cost £225	Amount requested £250	Awarded £200
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Having secured an allotment in Crewe the group would like to purchase gardening equipment for adults with disabilities to use to enable them to grow a range of different vegetables to then make other produce and develop their cooking skills. Profits from the sale of the produce, such as jams and chutney will be used to support the group's sustainability. They are not contributing themselves and have requested more than their project costs. It is recommended they are awarded £200.

Warrior Martial Arts

Total project cost £2,500	Amount requested £2,500	Awarded £750
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The group have applied under the facilities category but as the items requested are for the martial arts activities the application can only be considered under the activities category. They are requesting funding to replace old kick bags, focus pads, boxing gloves, pads, shields and kimonos to loan to children and new students. They are not contributing themselves or applying elsewhere and have not returned the monitoring information from their previous grant award. It is recommended they are awarded £750 towards the cost of replacing some of their equipment on condition of returning their monitoring information.

Crewe FC

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £300
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The club has been running free football sessions for 6-8 year olds since 2016 and are applying for costs to cover facility hire and football equipment to continue to offer the free sessions. They are not contributing themselves or sought other funding. As the scheme is unable to cover facility hire it is recommended they are awarded £300 as a contribution towards the equipment costs on condition of securing funding to run the sessions.

Poole Methodist Church and Quiet Garden

Total project cost £4,028	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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The church operates a quiet garden which is open to the public for quiet contemplation and listed on the national quiet gardens website. They wish to send a member of staff on a training course to enable him to run and teach mindfulness and relaxation techniques to groups of the

public and will provide assistance with transport for those that would like to visit the garden for the sessions. They are contributing themselves and have donations from the Anglican Church and Methodist Circuit. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Friends for Leisure

Total project cost £12,954	Amount requested £1,001	Awarded £1,000
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The group are asking for costs towards their holiday clubs for disabled children and young people and their siblings. They are contributing themselves and have other sources of funding. They are also working with local businesses to gain sponsorship for future year's holiday clubs. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 towards the cost of equipment and advertising.

Poynton Golden Memories Group

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £880	Awarded £880
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The group wish to purchase cooking hobs to produce soup at lunch time along with trestle tables, activity items and promotional leaflets in order to promote their group and support dementia sufferers and their carers. They have only been established for 3 months and expect around 50 people to attend the group within the first year. They are contributing themselves and have secured funding to cover the hire of their premises for the year. It is recommended they are awarded £880.

Saint Michaels Entertainers

Total project cost ?	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The group host an annual fundraising gala where other dance troupes compete and are requesting funding to cover the hall hire. They have not specified their full project costs, have not supplied copies of their constitution or safeguarding policy and are not contributing themselves. As room hire cannot be funded it is recommended the application is declined.

Friends of St Barnabas

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Deferred
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The group would like to start a new learning café to support older men who have lost wives / partners to learn to prepare simple healthy meals. They are asking for room hire and teaching costs, are not contributing themselves and have not sought other funding. It is recommended the application is deferred whilst options of linking in with similar groups in the area are explored.

SOL Theatre School

Total project cost £14,550	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The group have asked for a contribution towards the hire costs of Daneside Theatre and provision of the necessary performance and musical licences to perform the show "Happy Days". The scheme is unable to fund room hire or licences. They have also secured more funding than the project costs. It is recommended the application is declined.

3.3 Facilities:

Broad Lane Coffee Club

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £3,000	Declined
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Application form not fully completed, not clear if they own their premises or lease them, only currently have 12 members. Emailed 14.03.17 awaiting further info. As no additional information has been received and the application form is incomplete it is recommended the application is declined.

Sandbach Cricket Club

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £4,500	Awarded £3,000
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The Cricket Club require new nets and sight screens as they are rapidly expanding and do not have enough nets for all, juniors in particular, to practice. The increase in equipment will allow them to offer more coaching to an additional 50 children / adults. It will also increase the school participation as they will be able to offer the facility to more than 1 school at a time. They are a first time applicant and are making a small contribution themselves but do not have any other funding sources. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000 and asked to approach the Town Council.

1st Handforth Scout Group

Total project cost £9,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £2,500
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The Scout Group originally requested £7,000 from the Council but can only apply for £5,000, this leaves a shortfall of £4,000, they can contribute £2,000 themselves but are not applying elsewhere. They wish to purchase a storage garage to house their equipment and the costs will cover the garage door, bricks, ground work, roof and labour. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500 towards the costs of the project on condition of securing the rest of the funding from other sources.

Nether Alderley Primary Academy

Total project cost £9,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The primary school are applying for funding for a mini bus for the sole use of their pupils. As vehicles cannot be funded under the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants it is recommended the application is declined.

Friends of Stanley Hall Park

Total project cost £12,000	Amount requested £5,000	Deferred
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The friends group has a 5 year plan to refurbish Stanley Hall Park through fundraising to improve the facilities. They are applying for funding to improve the path which runs around the park giving access to the fields and pond, which is currently not accessible for wheelchair users and those with buggies / prams. They have applied to their local parish councils and Manchester Airport Community Fund and have their own fundraising to meet the shortfall. It is recommended the application is deferred whilst options around S106 funding are explored.

Canalside's Phase One Training

Total project cost £15,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,000
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The radio station wish to build a new studio solely for the youth training. With the additional separate studio they will be able to take more young people via work experience, Duke of Edinburgh, Princes Trust etc. They have funding through own fundraising and sponsorship. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000.

Macclesfield Town Ladies Football Team

Total project cost £4,676	Amount requested £2,000	Awarded £2,000
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The club wish to purchase 6 X goals to grow the club from their existing 7 teams to over 16 teams. They are also in the process of completing a development club application to expand their reach to more girls from grass roots to open age. They are contributing over half the costs themselves and have not applied previously. It is recommended they are awarded £2,000.

Team Chongi Academy

Total project cost £11,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The academy wish to install an air conditioning / heating system as they are finding it difficult to compete with the larger gyms in the area, particularly the newly opened Lifestyle Centre. Feedback has been that it is too hot during the summer and makes the training too

uncomfortable. They currently have around 250 people accessing their facilities. They are contributing themselves and have in kind donations but have asked for the payment to be made to a different bank account. As one of the conditions of application is having a bank account in the name of the organisation applying it is recommended the application is declined.

Crewe Heritage Centre

Total project cost £9,091	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,000
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The Heritage Centre is celebrating 30 years since it began and wish to purchase new display boards, tables and chairs for their exhibition hall to give a refreshed look and encourage other users and exhibitions. They currently have 30,000+ visitors annually and wish to increase this through working with other event organisers. They are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the Town Council. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000 towards the project.

Rode Heath Village Hall

Total project cost £1,815	Amount requested £1,515	Awarded £1,000
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The hall does not have any lockable storage and currently two small rooms are being used to store prizes, books and documents. If lockable storage was obtained then one of the rooms could be used to hire out for meetings, giving the hall an additional income. Lockable storage units would also mean that they could keep equipment on site for users of the hall, which would encourage more use. They are contributing a small amount themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Holmes Chapel Community Preschool

Total project cost £9,000	Amount requested £6,000	Declined
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The preschool are applying for an all weather shelter for the preschool playground which will be for the sole use of the preschool children. They have applied for £6,000 which is above the maximum amount under the facilities category. As the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants states that projects cannot be funded when they are for the sole benefit of students of a school or college it is recommended the application is declined.

Wheelock Methodist Church

Total project cost £4,400	Amount requested £3,500	Declined
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The church wishes to replace the windows in the rooms used by Wheelock preschool. They are contributing a small amount themselves but as the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants states that projects for the sole benefit of students of a school cannot be funded it is recommended the application is declined and information is given on funding specifically for church buildings.

Christ Church Alsager

Total project cost £8,440	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,000
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The church wish to install a soft play area for the growing number of under 5's using the hall to provide a safe and separate area to the other age groups. They are also applying for funding for a defibrillator, pool table and walkie talkies within the same application. They are contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000 towards the costs of the soft play area.

The Wishing Well Project

Total project cost £12,124	Amount requested £4,724	Awarded £3,300
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Wishing Well need to complete urgent security repairs on the facilities used by Wishing Well at both the Georges Community Centre and Jubilee House, following recommendations from the Police. They require security cameras and doors and would also like to replace the carpets and blinds and decorate at both centres. They have sponsorship from other organisations and

in-kind contributions to complete the labour costs. It is recommended they are awarded £3,300 as a contribution towards the security features.

Friends of Prestbury Youth

Total project cost £126,445	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The youth club are requesting funding for storage bench seating as part of the fit out of the new youth and community centre. The youth club received £5,000 in match funding to support other grant applications in January 2016 for the same project, which have now been received, therefore it is recommended the application is declined.

Goostrey Preschool

Total project cost £4,805	Amount requested £3,791	Awarded £3,000
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The preschool have relocated to 1st Goostrey scout hut and are requesting funding towards tables, chairs and matting for the use of the preschool children and users of the scout hut and to enable more community use of the venue. They are contributing themselves but have not sought any other funding. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000.

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 2017/18

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Council has the power 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 2016/17. 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 to ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

8.3 Grant funding to 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:

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