

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

Date of Meeting: 31st July 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 second round of grants for 2017/18 and makes recommendations totalling £44,812 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants.
- 1.3 There are a total of 19 grants recommended to be awarded, contributing to £166,343 of project costs, 18 are recommended to be declined and 4 are 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

Friends of St Barnabas	Declined
Moor Art Knutsford	Awarded £840
Nantwich Choral Society	Declined
Polish Domestic Violence Helpline	Awarded £400
Rotary Club of Bentley	Declined
Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) Wilmslow	Awarded £1,000

Activities

Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union	Deferred
Cheshire Streetwise CIC	Deferred
Church Minshull Sports and Social Club	Awarded £750
Congleton Musical Theatre	Awarded £500
Connected Youth CIC	Declined
Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC	Declined
Crewe Parkrun	Deferred

HANFA	Declined
Holmes Chapel and District Community Partnership	Deferred
LATH – Looking After The Homeless	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Eye Society	Declined
Sandbach United U11 Girls Eagles Football Team	Declined
Therapy Animals CIC	Declined
Triton Hockey Club	Awarded £500
Wilmslow Parish Food Friend	Declined
Worleston and District Village Hall Association	Awarded £472
Wrenbury and District Model Railway Club	Awarded £350

Facilities

3 rd Crewe Brownies and Rainbows	Declined
35 th South West Cheshire Scout Group (Wistaston)	Declined
Alderley Edge Methodist Church	Declined
Broad Lane Coffee Club	Awarded £2,000
Cheshire East ABC	Awarded £5,000
Dean Row Village Hall	Awarded £5,000
Enterprise and Education Alliance Ltd	Awarded £1,000
Friends of Stanley Hall Park	Awarded £5,000
Heal Equine	Declined
Langley Cricket Club	Awarded £5,000
LHA Trading as Chuff Chuff	Declined
Middlewich Vision	Awarded £4,000
Mottram St Andrew Primary Academy	Declined
Nantwich Players	Awarded £5,000
Odd Rode Parish Council	Declined
South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club	Declined
St James' Church, Congleton	Awarded £2,000
Wilmslow Bowling Club	Awarded £5,000

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Friends of St Barnabas

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested	Declined
	£1,000	

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. Another application has been received from the group for this round. It is recommended that this application is declined.

Moor Art Knutsford

Total project cost £900	Amount requested	Awarded £840
	£840	

Moor Art Knutsford is a new group looking to create an art event that is widely accessible to the local community. They require funding for advertising and publishing materials. As this is a new group they do not have any reserves but

are making a small contribution. It is recommended that they are awarded £840 and that they also seek support from the Town Council and other funding sources to increase future sustainability.

Nantwich Choral Society

Total project cost £15,934	Amount requested £750	Declined
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Nantwich Choral Society requires funding for the publicity of their performance. The group applies annually to the scheme and has received grants for 4 consecutive years. It is recommended that they are declined and that they look into alternative sources of funding to increase sustainability.

Polish Domestic Abuse Helpline

Total project cost £1,050	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £400
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The Polish Domestic Abuse Helpline requires funding to hold an event promoting child safety both online and in the home. Information about access to support services will be available. £1,000 has been requested, however, it is stated that the group have £600 income. It is therefore recommended that they are awarded £400 towards activities and marketing.

Rotary Club of Bentley, Cheshire

Total project cost £2,950	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The Rotary Club of Bentley require funding towards the set up and equipment required to hold a fun run event aimed at increasing the exposure of the club to new people. Unfortunately, the scheme cannot fund events where profits will be distributed to other charities and it is recommended that the application is declined.

Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) Wilmslow

Total project cost £4,870	Amount requested £4,870	Awarded £1,000
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The RBL hold a thank you event for the young people that help to collect for the poppy appeal across Cheshire each November. Funding is required for the printing of programmes, certificates and trophies. The organisation does not have any reserves and has not been successful in approaching other funders. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition of securing and evidencing the remaining event costs and on the submission of an organisation safeguarding policy.

3.2 Activities:

Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,000	Deferred
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Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union requires funding for resources to deliver a marketing campaign and to ensure staff and volunteers have the skills and expertise to offer members high quality financial services. The organisation has applied to the town partnerships for funding and they have a donation from

Wulvern Housing. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending receipt of a breakdown of their project costs and information on other funding received over the past two years.

Cheshire Streetwise

Total project cost £980	Amount requested £980	Deferred
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Cheshire Streetwise requires funding for health and safety training which will then allow them to run workshops that have been funded by CE Participatory Budgeting. It is recommended that the application is deferred while options around health and safety training are explored and to look into the links with the larger project which has already been funded by CE.

Church Minshull Sports and Social Club

Total project cost £1,004	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £750
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Church Minshull Sports and Social Club require funding to purchase new sports, craft and games equipment to enable continuation of play and to encourage more people to participate in activities. The club have limited reserves but will be contributing towards the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £750.

Congleton Musical Theatre

Total project cost £21,995	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £500
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Congleton Musical Theatre requires funding towards the building of their set for the production of "Jekyll and Hyde". Although the group have applied many times in the past their application was declined last year. They are contributing to project costs themselves and have numerous other contributions. It is recommended they are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

Connected Youth CIC

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Connected Youth CIC has applied for funding to cover the costs of two workers to provide a protective behaviours programme, addressing the growing concern of CSE. Unfortunately, salaries cannot be funded by the scheme; it is therefore recommended the application is declined. The group is also based outside of CE. (Supporting documentation, further information and replacement application requested 5/6/17 but no reply received)

Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC

Total project cost £950	Amount requested £950	Declined
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Crewe Alexandra Ladies FC requires funding to develop the ability to offer different opportunities to girls and women within marginalised groups, reducing the barrier for participation. The group received funding in 2016 for a very similar project, with project costs being the same. As repeat applications cannot be funded, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Crewe Parkrun

Total project cost £3,000	Amount requested	Deferred
	£1,000	

Crewe Parkrun is applying for set up costs of a new parkrun event at the suggested venue of Queens Park. The organisation does not have its own bank account. It is recommended the application is deferred to the next round to allow the group to set up a bank account.

HANFA

Total project cost	Amount requested	Declined
£12,050	£1,000	

HANFA require funding to provide excursions and activities for young people with additional needs. Unfortunately, the scheme cannot fund excursions and we have not received any supporting documentation. The project is due to begin before the decisions meeting takes place. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Holmes Chapel and District Community Partnership

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested	Deferred
	£1,000	

Holmes Chapel Community Partnership require funding to run a project offering individual, group and workshop support in areas such as anxiety, depression, anger, stress etc. A breakdown of the project costs has been requested to gain a better insight into how the project will operate. Awaiting a signed copy of constitution. It is recommended the application is deferred until the next round pending the receipt of information.

LATH – Looking After the Homeless

Total project cost £1,439	Amount requested	Awarded £1,000
	£1,000	

LATH requires funding for two new computers to support clients with housing needs, job searches, welfare applications etc. A pressure cooker is required for more efficient operation of the kitchen and volunteers need to be trained in first aid and food hygiene. The group will be contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield Eye Society

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested	Declined
	£1,000	

Macclesfield Eye Society is applying for funding towards the running of Poynton VIP Social Group. Costs include facility hire, refreshments, volunteer expenses, sessional workers and speakers, all of which cannot be funded by the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Sandbach United U11 Girls Eagles Football Team

Total project cost £958	Amount requested £958	Declined
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Sandbach United require funding for training kits for the Under 11 Girls team. The club are not contributing, despite reserves, have not applied elsewhere and are not asking parents to contribute. It is recommended that they are declined and that they look into applying to other sources specifically for kits and to seek sponsorship.

Therapy Animals CIC

Total project cost £1,450	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Therapy Animals CIC is requesting funding for bi-weekly visits to specialist schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centres. The funding is requested for travel expenses, insurances and dog handling fees which cannot be funded by the scheme. Supporting documentation has not been submitted. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Triton Hockey Club

Total project cost £990	Amount requested £990	Awarded £500
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Triton Hockey Club requires funding for first aid training for key personnel within the club. This will ensure that the club is compliant and equipped to deal with any first aid requirements which ensure a safer environment. The club do not have contributions from elsewhere and are not contributing themselves, despite holding some reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and also seek support from the Town Council and their own reserves on condition of receipt of their safeguarding policy and signed constitution document.

Wilmslow Parish Food Friend

Total project cost £10,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Wilmslow Parish Food friend is applying for funding for the purchase of food to make up the food parcels that they distribute to those in need throughout the area. Food or running costs is not something that can be covered by the scheme. It is recommended that they application is declined and that the organisation works on promoting the service in order to receive more food donations.

Worleston and District Village Hall Association

Total project cost £1,761	Amount requested £472	Awarded £472
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Worleston and District Village Hall Association require funding to purchase items required to build and create raised beds for their garden project which is aimed at increasing social inclusion, exercise and physical activity. Garden beds will be allocated to Rainbows/Brownies to promote healthy eating, another to the elderly for flower arranging and the third to disabled and wheelchair users for vegetable growth. They have a contribution from

elsewhere and have in-kind volunteer time for construction. It is recommended that they are awarded £472

Wrenbury and District Model Railway Club

Total project cost £1,159	Amount requested £460	Awarded £350
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Wrenbury and District Model Railway Club is requesting funding towards the purchase of items in order to construct portable modular railway boards. This will enable members to continue to construct a layout at home and fulfil requests of attending other community groups and halls to deliver talks.

The club have volunteer time in kind but have no reserves to contribute themselves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 and that they also seek support from the local Parish Council.

3.3 Facilities:

3rd Crewe Brownies and Rainbows

Total project cost £9,350	Amount requested £8,392	Declined
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3rd Crewe Brownies and Rainbows require funding to improve kitchen and toilet facilities to enable more people to use the hall and increase accessibility. The application has been made for a greater amount than the category maximum. Further information has been requested on how the shortfall would be covered. Supporting documentation has not been submitted and the project start date is documented as 16/7/17 - which is before the decisions meeting. It is recommended that the application is declined.

35th South West Cheshire Scout Group (Wistaston)

Total project cost £207,000	Amount requested £2,500	Declined
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35th SWC Scout group requires funding for safety flooring for their new building to safeguard young people that may be taking part in boisterous activities. This has been a large project with lots of fundraising and other grants and donations received. However, this project has received a CE Giveback Grant in 2014 as well as A CE community grant in 2016 and although these were for different elements of the project, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Alderley Edge Methodist Church

Total project cost £10,945	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Alderley Edge Methodist Church requires funding to improve the kitchen and foyer areas of the church so that it is suitable for the large events that it caters for. The Church has been unsuccessful with an application to Wren but has said they will be contributing the remaining project costs themselves. It is recommended that they are declined due to funding already received from CE.

Broad Lane Coffee Club

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £3,000	Awarded £2,000
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Broad Lane Coffee Club requires funding to improve wheelchair access and new windows to reduce draughts in the Church. The Club will be contributing towards the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and also seek support from the Town Council.

Cheshire East Amateur Boxing Club

Total project cost £11,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Cheshire East ABC requires funding to install an air conditioning system into the gym. The club fears that due to inadequate air conditioning facilities, they may lose members to newer, better equipped gyms. The club has approximately 250 members at present. The club will be contributing the remaining project costs - with £500 sponsorship and £500 in donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Dean Row Village Hall

Total project cost £25,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Dean Row Village Hall requires funding towards a new roof to prevent the closure of the hall which is used by many different community groups. The organisation is contributing and has been working hard to bring in other funding. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Enterprise and Education Alliance Ltd

Total project cost £3,593	Amount requested £3,593	Awarded £1,000
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Enterprise and Education Alliance Ltd are requesting funding to create an under cover decking space in Barnies Community Garden so that the garden can be enjoyed on rainy days. The group are requesting the full amount for the project and are not contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and that they seek support from other sources such as Crewe Town Council.

Friends of Stanley Hall Park

Total project cost £12,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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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. Application was deferred in April 17 pending information around S106 funding - this is not feasible at this time but could be considered for future projects. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Heal Equine

Total project cost £4,890	Amount requested	Declined
	£4,890	

Heal Equine is applying for funding to rent a field and ménage for 3 horses, food and veterinary bills for 6 months during the start up of a new project using horses as an alternative therapy for people with mental health issues, addiction, anxiety etc. Unfortunately, these costs cannot be funded by the scheme. Supporting documentation has been submitted for another organisation, not in this organisation's name. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Langley Cricket Club

Total project cost	Amount requested	Awarded £5,000
£30,960	£5,000	

Langley Cricket Club requires funding to extend their club house and become a focal point for the community. Currently the club house is not of a sufficient standard to open for community use. The club have raised the majority of funding themselves and have applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000.

LHA trading as Chuff Chuff

Total project cost £8,500	Amount requested £----	Declined
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Chuff Chuff requires funding for the refurbishment of their community based dance, fitness and arts centre. The organisation will be contributing to the project and has in kind contributions however, the amount required from CE is not stated and supporting documentation to prove the organisation is not-for-profit has not been submitted. Another application from an organisation at the centre has been submitted. It is recommended the application is declined.

Middlewich Vision

Total project cost £7,516	Amount requested	Awarded £4,000
	£5,000	

Middlewich Vision require funding for the set up of a new monthly market replacing the previous privately owned makers market, which has been pulled unexpectedly. They intend to purchase stalls and storage units and the market will be a not-for-profit community initiative. The group are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the town council but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,000 and also look into applying to other grant funding organisations.

Mottram St Andrew Primary Academy

Total project cost	Amount requested	Declined
£24,371	£5,000	

Mottram St Andrew Primary Academy require funding to open their own pre-school nursery following the closure of the privately run nursery in the area. The policy of allocation of community grants states that projects organised for the sole benefit of student of a school or college can not be funded unless they are open outside of normal school hours in the holidays and include a wide proportion of the community. It is recommended that the application in declined.

Nantwich Players

Total project cost £8,700	Amount requested	Awarded £5,000
	£5,000	

Nantwich Players are requesting funding for toilet refurbishment. The group have recently carried out a large project to create a better foyer for the theatre, therefore have limited funds and commitments to loan repayments. However, they are contributing towards the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Odd Rode Parish Council

Total project cost	Amount requested	Declined
£34,000	£5,000	

Odd Rode Parish Council has applied for funding towards improvements to Rode Heath Play Park. Unfortunately, the scheme cannot fund Parish Councils. It is recommended that the application is declined and that the Parish Council work with local groups to progress the project and apply for funding.

South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club

Total project cost	Amount requested	Declined
£10,000	£5,000	

South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club are applying for funding to improve the facilities at their gym, including new windows, insulation, smoke alarms, energy saving lights and boxing equipment. The application form has not been signed by SCABC committee members, but by the manager of their building. The same application has been submitted that was submitted in January 2016, therefore, information is outdated and the funding was not claimed from this award. As repeat applications cannot be awarded it is recommended that the application is declined.

St James' Church, Congleton

Total project cost £9,406	Amount requested	Awarded £2,000
	£2,000	

St James's Church in Congleton requires funding for a rewiring project, new lighting and installation of circuit breakers for safety reasons. The church holds community events and the church room is used by community organisations such as the WI, U3A and Probus. The church are making a contribution themselves, have donations and are applying to other grant funders, it is recommended that they are awarded £2,000.

Wilmslow Bowling Club

Total project cost	Amount requested	Awarded £5,000
£18,000	£5,000	

Wilmslow Bowling Club requires funding to replace floodlights that were demolished in storm Doris. The club will be contributing to the project themselves as well as applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

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

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

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.

7.2 Recommendations totalling £44,812 will be funded from the Partnerships and Communities team budget. The community grants base budget includes reserves from 2016/17 and additional growth funds.

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 2017/18. 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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