

Cabinet Member for Strategic Outcomes

Agenda

Date: Monday, 27th April, 2015
Time: 12.00 pm
Venue: Committee Suite 1, 2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relating to the work of the body in question. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

For requests for further information

Contact: Cherry Foreman

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4. **Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants** (Pages 1 - 12)

To consider a report highlighting a number of changes to the Community Grants Policy for the 2015/16 financial year and seeking approval for the transfer of the underspend arising from the Giveback Fund to the Community Grant Scheme.

5. **Allocation of Community Grants** (Pages 13 - 22)

To determine the award of Community Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Outcomes

Date of Meeting: 27th April 2015
Report of: Principal Manager – Local Area Working
Subject/Title: Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Cllr D Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To highlight a number of changes made to the Community Grants Policy for the financial year of 2015/16 and to approve the transfer of the underspend arising from the Giveback Fund to the Community Grant Scheme. The amended policy is attached as an appendix.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To adopt the amended Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants as appended to this report.
- 2.2 To approve the transfer of remaining Giveback funding into the Community Grants Scheme.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder to make further minor amendments to this Policy limited to adding new categories in the event that any additional funding is made available within the 2015/16 budget year and the Portfolio Holder considers it appropriate to add new categories to the scheme to meet the Residents First Outcomes.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Community Grants Policy was first adopted in the financial year of 2009/10 and has been in operation since. Applications are invited from organisations who meet the policy criteria. The Council recognises the valuable input that the voluntary, community and faith sector brings to the quality of life in the community. The scheme has enabled funding to be focused on those organisations that contribute to meeting the Residents First Outcomes.
- 3.2 A total of 129 organisations received funding totalling £225,471 in 2014/15 which has enabled a wealth of community activity to take place with a year on year increase in the number of applications received since the scheme began.

- 3.3 Due to a budget surplus of £900,000 an additional grant scheme was established, entitled the Giveback fund, in July 2014 to fund the following community activity:
 - 3.3.1 Young people's sections of uniformed organisations – total allocation £300,000
 - 3.3.2 Organisations who provide services and support to older people – total allocation £350,000
 - 3.3.3 Domestic abuse support for young people in abusive relationships – total allocation £50,000
 - 3.3.4 Faith organisations who are connecting with communities – total allocation £200,000
- 3.4 Whilst this scheme was very successful there has been an underspend and it is proposed that this is carried over into the Community Grant Scheme budget for 2015/16 as this enables the continuation of funding to the voluntary, community and faith sector, which is what the scheme was established for.
- 3.5 In the event that any other additional monies are made available in 2015/16 it is proposed that this money is added to the community grant scheme to streamline the grants process and make it easier for organisations to understand and apply for funding. In order to accommodate any additional funding the categories to which people can apply to will remain the same, as detailed below:
 - 3.5.1 Events up to £1,000
 - 3.5.2 Activities up to £1,000
 - 3.5.3 Facilities up to £5,000
- 3.6 If the additional monies are sufficient to fund additional categories and as a result minor adjustments to this Policy are required then it is proposed that Cabinet delegate responsibility to the Portfolio Holder to amend this Policy within the 2015/16 budget year.
- 3.7 Priority will be given to organisations and projects that build community resilience and reduce the demand on mainstream services, with a particular focus on activities which contribute positively to people's mental health and wellbeing. Activities can include:
 - 3.7.1 increased community-led and managed activities
 - 3.7.2 increased volunteer numbers
 - 3.7.3 helping people to help themselves and support each other
 - 3.7.4 reduced reliance and demand on mainstream services
 - 3.7.5 improving the mental health and wellbeing of residents
 - 3.7.6 engaging local people through community hubs, existing community groups and their social networks
 - 3.7.7 putting residents first
- 3.8 Priority will also be given to organisations which are based in Cheshire East, have funding contributions from their own funds and/or funding support from

other bodies and have not received a grant from Cheshire East Council previously.

- 3.9 Organisations will be required to demonstrate that their outcomes contribute to Resident First Outcomes 1, 3 and 5 with links to Outcomes 2 and 4.

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 Positive Impact

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The recommendations will enable grant applications for 2015/2016 to be funded within existing budget provision including the additional funding made available from the Giveback fund.

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 The Policy for the Allocation of Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations 2015/16 deals with the allocation of community grants which are awarded to defined Organisations following an application process, and against a 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 is 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 voluntary, community and faith 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.
- 9.2 Not adapting the scheme to incorporate additional funding through robust management of Council funds could result in a delay in providing access to much needed additional funding for the voluntary, community and faith sector.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 A decision is required to enable the allocation of Community Grants to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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Designation: Head of Communities

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POLICY FOR THE
ALLOCATION OF
COMMUNITY GRANTS

2015/16

9th April 2015

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Cheshire East Council operates a Community Grants Scheme within the boundaries of Cheshire East. This Policy addresses the governance arrangements, procedures and monitoring process to facilitate the scheme.
- 1.2. The aim of the Community Grants Scheme is to support Organisations (which for the purposes of this Policy shall 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. Grants will be awarded which meet the Council's Residents First Outcomes:
 - 1.2.1. Outcome 1 – Our local communities are strong and supportive
 - 1.2.2. Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy
 - 1.2.3. Outcome 3 – People have the life skills and education they need to thrive
 - 1.2.4. Outcome 4 – Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place
 - 1.2.5. Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer
- 1.3. When using the term grants in this 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.

2. LEGAL AND BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 2.1. The Strategic Communities Portfolio Holder, (or whichever Portfolio Holder has responsibility for Community Grants at the time of making the grants decisions), will be responsible for the Community Grants Scheme and has delegated authority to approve applications for grants from local Organisations to assist in developing community based activities and projects, subject to the maximum amounts set out in paragraph 3.3 of this Policy.
- 2.2. The Community Grant budget is fixed and so there is a limited amount of money from which to pay Community Grants under this policy.
- 2.3. All grant decisions will be made based on the set of principles, set out in this Policy, and within the agreed budget approved by Council each year. The budget for the grants is managed carefully and flexibly to ensure that the Council has money available throughout the year. As far as possible the Council tries to ensure that no one is disadvantaged due to the time of year they apply.
- 2.4. Given the fixed budget and the Council's aim to benefit as many Organisations as possible, the Council cannot guarantee to fund the maximum amount applied for; therefore Organisations must ensure that they have procedures in place to cover the balance of funding required. The Council will not pay a grant unless the Organisation can demonstrate that the balance of the funding is available.
- 2.5. The Portfolio Holder will be responsible for setting aside a proportion of the available budget for promotion and publicity purposes, as required.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 3.1. The Cheshire East Community Grants Scheme operates within set criteria, agreed by the Portfolio Holder and relevant Council Officers in line with the Council's Residents First Outcomes as follows:

3.2. How to apply

- 3.2.1. Applications for Community Grants must be made using the Council's Community Grant or Community Led Planning Grant application form (whichever is applicable) and associated guidance notes that are available online on the Council's website and as a paper version on request.
- 3.2.2. The application form must be completed in full. Incomplete application forms will not be considered and will be returned to you, which could cause a delay or deferral to your application. A copy of the Organisations up-to-date signed Governing Document and Safeguarding Policies must be sent with the application form or within 7 days of submitting the application. If this is not received the application will be deferred to the next round of evaluation and may result in the application being declined. Supporting documentation (listed under section 9 of the application form) may also be requested prior to the application being fully considered. Failure to supply all required documentation will result in the application being treated as incomplete.
- 3.2.3. The closing dates for receipt and acceptance of complete applications are the last Friday of March, June, September and December each year.
- 3.2.4. Grants cannot be paid retrospectively therefore any work commenced prior to acceptance of the grant offer will not be eligible for funding.
- 3.2.5. All successful applicants will be required to complete a post grant monitoring report as per section 5.0 of this Policy.

3.3. What can be funded

3.3.1. Community Grants

- 3.3.2. Grants up to the following amounts are available to support Organisations who are looking to improve or enhance community life and offer wider opportunities to local people within Cheshire East. See examples below:

3.3.3. *Facilities – up to a maximum award of £5,000*

- 3.3.3.1. Renovations or improvements to buildings, sports and play areas, conservation areas etc;
- 3.3.3.2. Grant towards match or third party funding i.e. WREN, Big Lottery etc;
- 3.3.3.3. Equipment such as kitchen furniture, tables, chairs, sensory or play rooms etc;
- 3.3.3.4. Feasibility studies or architects fees up to a maximum of 5% of the costs.

3.3.4. *Activities – up to a maximum award of £1,000*

- 3.3.4.1. Equipment, materials or specialist kit to help the Organisation develop;
- 3.3.4.2. Training courses;
- 3.3.4.3. Specialist coaching or teaching sessions;
- 3.3.4.4. Contributions towards running costs, excluding salaries, (for new Organisations only).
- 3.3.4.5. Publicity / advertising / promotions;

3.3.5. *Events - up to a maximum award of £1,000*

- 3.3.5.1. Equipment/materials
- 3.3.5.2. Hire or purchase of equipment or performers
- 3.3.5.3. Publicity/advertising/promotions

3.3.6. Community Led Planning Grants

3.3.7. Community led planning grants are available to any constituted Organisation operating within the Cheshire East area which is completing a community led plan.

3.3.8. The purpose of a community led planning starter grant is to support Organisations, prior to becoming constituted, within Cheshire East to establish whether there is a desire to create a community led plan within their area.

3.3.9. The purpose of a community led planning development grant is to provide support for those Organisations undertaking a community led plan and assist in the development of the Organisation and production of the final plan.

3.3.10. Organisations can apply for both a starter and development grant within the same financial year (which runs from 1st April to 31st March). Applications for both grants cannot be made at the same time and, once granted, an Organisation cannot apply under these categories again unless they can demonstrate that their circumstances have changed and any further application can be properly treated as a fresh application.

3.3.11. **Community-led Plan Starter Grant, up to a maximum of £250** for initial start up costs of developing an Organisation. The starter grant can be used for:

- 3.3.11.1. Hire of rooms or marquees for an event
- 3.3.11.2. Hire of equipment
- 3.3.11.3. Creation of promotional materials
- 3.3.11.4. Administrative costs

3.3.12. **Community-led Plan Development Grant, up to a maximum of £500** for costs involved in the development of the Community-led Plan and Action Plan. The Development Grant can be used for:

- 3.3.12.1. Equipment/materials to help the Organisation develop;
- 3.3.12.2. Training;
- 3.3.12.3. Specialist advice and support;
- 3.3.12.4. Contributions towards facility hire.

3.4. What cannot be funded

- 3.4.1. Organisations which hold substantial free reserves, including local branches of national or regional Organisations which hold free reserves that could be utilised;
- 3.4.2. Applications from Town and Parish Councils;
- 3.4.3. Work which has already taken place before acceptance of the grant offer ;
- 3.4.4. Individuals;
- 3.4.5. General appeals, sponsorship or fundraising for your own organisation or others;
- 3.4.6. Activities of a mainly political or religious nature;
- 3.4.7. Assistance with providing transport;
- 3.4.8. Refreshments and/or accommodation;
- 3.4.9. Outings or day trips;
- 3.4.10. Travel expenses;
- 3.4.11. Projects, activities or events organised for the sole benefit of students of a school or college;
- 3.4.12. Events which do not involve members of the local community participating;
- 3.4.13. Repair costs where deterioration is due to neglect;
- 3.4.14. Loan against loss or debt;

- 3.4.15. Running Costs i.e gas, electricity, water, , insurance, telephone, broadband etc (unless this is for a new Organisation, which has been established for less than 6 months);
- 3.4.16. Salaries;
- 3.4.17. Land purchase;
- 3.4.18. Vehicle purchase;
- 3.4.19. Items that are purchased on behalf of another Organisation;
- 3.4.20. Disabled facilities where there is no proven need for the work to be carried out or where upgrading is required for an existing facility to meet the statutory requirements of the DDA.
- 3.4.21. Organisations which are not based in Cheshire East, unless they can demonstrate significant community benefits within Cheshire East.

3.5. Who can apply

To qualify for a grant Organisations must meet the criteria listed below:

- 3.5.1. Operate within the Cheshire East area;
- 3.5.2. Provide value for money
- 3.5.3. Be a voluntary or community organisation, registered charity or other not for profit organisation;
- 3.5.4. Have a set of audited accounts, or as a minimum an Organisation bank statement, and are able to provide such information as the Council reasonably requires in order to satisfy the Council as to the Organisations financial position and its need for the assistance requested;
- 3.5.5. Have a management committee with an up-to-date signed Governing Document;
- 3.5.6. Have appropriate safeguarding policies relevant to their Organisation where children, young people or vulnerable adults are involved, which must include a requirement that staff / volunteers are cleared with the Disclosure and Barring Service;
- 3.5.7. Have their own bank or building society account with two signatories;
- 3.5.8. Complete the application form in full, providing all required information;
- 3.5.9. Have not already received a community grant within the current financial year.
- 3.5.10. .

3.6. Criteria for Funding

Priority will be given to Organisations and projects that build community resilience and reduce the demand on mainstream services. Activities can include:

- 3.6.1 increased community-led and managed activities
- 3.6.2 increased volunteer numbers
- 3.6.3 helping people to help themselves and support each other
- 3.6.4 reduced reliance and demand on mainstream services
- 3.6.5 improving the mental health and wellbeing of residents
- 3.6.6 engaging local people through community hubs, existing community groups and their social networks
- 3.6.7 putting residents first and contributing to outcomes 1, 3 and 5 with links to outcomes 2 and 4 as per section 1.2 of this Policy.

Priority will also be given to organisations which are based in Cheshire East, have funding contributions from their own funds and/or funding support from other bodies and have not received a grant from Cheshire East Council previously.

3.7. General Conditions

- 3.7.1. Grants are classed as one-off and should not be seen as repeat funding;
- 3.7.2. Annual applications from the same Organisation for the same purpose will not be considered;
- 3.7.3. Activities Grants are only valid for a period of 6 months from the date of the offer letter and will be paid in advance.

- 3.7.4. Facilities Grants are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of the offer letter and will be paid upon completion of the project. A report and invoices or receipts must be forwarded to the Grants Officer within 12 months of the date of offer letter to allow the grant to be paid;
- 3.7.5. If an Organisations financial position means that they are unable to begin the project without payment of the grant first they may be entitled to request payment prior to the project commencing. Monitoring information will still need to be submitted 12 months after the date of the offer letter;
- 3.7.6. Organisations who are in receipt of other funding from the Council may apply to this grant scheme if the grant is required for a one-off project which is considered additional to the service already funded;
- 3.7.7. Any profits from events must be used to further develop the Organisation or for any future events and not used to support other Organisations;
- 3.7.8. If the project involves work on land or a building, including refurbishment, the applicant must own the freehold of the land or building, or hold a lease that cannot be brought to an end by the landlord for at least 5 years;
- 3.7.9. If planning permission is required this must be in place before the grant application is made. The Council may ask for confirmation that planning permission is not required, or that it is required and has been granted. Grant applications without planning permission in place will be considered if the application is for a feasibility study or architects fees in order to establish the viability of the project;
- 3.7.10. Organisations must be committed to and have policies on equalities and inclusion and in delivering the services or activity the Organisation must not unlawfully discriminate, directly or indirectly against any of the nine protected characteristics which are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Organisation can direct some or all of its activities at specific groups where the intention is to address discrimination or disadvantage;
- 3.7.11. Organisations must be able to participate in a monitoring process and provide monitoring information to evidence how the grant money has been spent and adherence to the conditions of the grant. This must include receipts or invoices and a written report of the project, activity or event, plus photographs if possible, on completion;
- 3.7.12. Organisations must acknowledge the support of Cheshire East Council in press releases, publicity and advertising etc.
- 3.7.13. The Organisation will allow Cheshire East Council to use details of the grant award, together with any relevant photographs supplied, in newsletters and on the Council's website.
- 3.7.14. Expenditure must not be incurred on the project, activity or event prior to the grant decision being given. In these circumstances the Council will withdraw the grant offer/rescind the grant decision.
- 3.7.15. Organisations must notify the Council of any changes in circumstances which affect their financial position throughout the period in which the grant monies are being used.
- 3.7.16. The grant must only be used for the purposes specifically stated in the application form, should it be spent in any other way, without written approval from the Council, the Organisation may be asked to return some or all of the monies paid.
- 3.7.17. If the project, event or activity is cancelled or only partially achieved, or if the Organisation is wound up, any unused grant money must be returned to the Council.
- 3.7.18. All conditions under which the grant has been awarded, including any Special Conditions, must be met. Failure to do so could result in the Organisation being asked to repay the grant monies to the Council.

4. DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- 4.1. The Community Grant applications will be considered at quarterly intervals as set out at section 3.2.3.
- 4.2. Having assessed all applications a Recommendations Report is prepared for consideration by the Portfolio Holder at a public decisions meeting.

- 4.3. Following the public meeting, a decisions report is circulated to all elected members who must make any comments within 5 days (the "Call-in Period").
- 4.4. Should any comments/objections be made during the 5 day Call-in Period a further public meeting is held to discuss the comments/objection(s) and adjust as necessary.
- 4.5. Special Conditions may be added in the recommendations report, by the Portfolio Holder following the public meeting and/or following comments received during the Call-in Period if considered necessary in order to ensure that the purpose of the grant funding is achieved. If the project is dependent on other factors such as securing match funding or obtaining planning permission a Conditional Offer may be made subject to these conditions being met.
- 4.6. If there are no objections (or after the follow up public meeting), the decisions will be treated as final and Organisations will be notified to inform them of whether they have been successful or not as soon as possible after the Call-in Period has ended and generally within 6 weeks after the closing date for each round of applications.
- 4.7. Complaints about any aspect of the Community Grant process will be dealt with under the Council's Corporate Complaints Procedure. A copy of the [Council's Corporate Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions Policy](#) is available from the Council's website.

5. MONITORING AND RECORD KEEPING

- 5.1. Following a successful application and in order to ensure that monies are used in an appropriate manner, as set out in this Policy, a monitoring report will be required following project completion. This report shall include, but shall not be limited to, how many people benefitted from the project, if a profit was made and how it was used, how the grant money was used and what difference the project made to the Organisation and/or local people.
- 5.2. For Activities Grants a report and invoices or receipts must be forwarded to the Council within 6 months of the date of offer letter.
- 5.3. For Facilities Grants a report and invoices or receipts must be forwarded to the Council within 12 months of the date of offer letter to allow the grant to be paid;
- 5.4. The Council reserves the right to monitor the use of the grant and ask for evidence to support an application.
- 5.5. The Organisation must allow reasonable access to premises/accounts upon request from the Council.
- 5.6. Organisations must retain records relating to the grant for an appropriate period (to be advised depending on the grant).
- 5.7. If Organisations do not supply the required monitoring reports and supporting information in full and within the set time scale they may be asked to repay the grant funding to the Council. Failure to comply with the conditions of this grant may be taken into account when considering any further applications for grant funding made by the same Organisation in the future.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 27th April 2015
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
Subject/Title: Policy for the Allocation of Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor D Brown

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 first round of grants for 2015/16 and makes recommendations totalling £32,981 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:

Activities

Alderley Edge May Fair	Awarded £1,000
Audlem Music & Arts Annual Festival	Awarded £1,000
Audlem Special Events Team	Awarded £1,000
Audlem Youth Club	Awarded £500
Autism Inclusive	Awarded £500
Bickerton Village Hall	Awarded £750
Carers Trust 4 All	Awarded £1,000
Cheshire Academy of Integrated Sport and the Arts	Awarded £750
Cheshire East ABC	Awarded £750
C M Vision	Awarded £750
Community Spirit	Awarded £750
Congleton Choral Society	Awarded £750
CYGNETS	Awarded £1,000
Family History Society - Crewe	Declined
Friends of Congleton Park	Awarded £500
Macclesfield Academy Learning Community	Deferred
Macclesfield and District Sheep Dog Trials Association	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Community Partnership	Declined
Mobility and Access Group	Deferred
Nantwich Choral Society	Awarded £750
One World 2015	Awarded £800

Sandbach Ceilidhs	Awarded £451
Sandbach Voices	Awarded £500
SOL Theatre School	Awarded £1,000
Team Congleton Ltd	Awarded £1,000
The Alderley Edge Orchestra	Awarded £350
The Lindow Singers	Awarded £400
The Sandstone Ridge Trust	Awarded £500
Wheelock Holiday Club	Awarded £130
Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society	Awarded £350
Wybunbury World War One Community Group	Declined

Facilities

Bollington Community Centre	Awarded £3,500
Bollington Initiative Trust	Declined
Bunbury Playground Committee	Declined
Croft Village Memorial Hall	Declined
Disley Cricket Club	Awarded £2,500
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre	Declined
Nantwich Methodist Church	Awarded £750
Over Water Wheely Boat Project	Awarded £3,500
Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Awarded £750
Sandbach Gymnastics Supporters	Awarded £2,000
St John's Pre School	Declined
St Stephen's Methodist Church	Awarded £1,750

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1

Activities:

Alderley Edge May Fair

Total project cost £10,800	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Alderley Edge May Fair is an annual event which aims to encourage goodwill and involvement in the wider community to develop community spirit. Funding is required to provide additional entertainment. Other costs include marquees, toilets, entertainers etc. The group are contributing to the event and have funding from elsewhere, as well as income coming from stall fees. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that the total project costs are not achieved through other grant applied for and stall fees.

Audlem Music and Arts Annual Festival

Total project cost £15,500	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Audlem Music and Arts Annual Festival require funding towards holding their annual event. Costs include a PA and sound system, marquees and hire of performers. This event is open to all residents and tourists and boosts tourism in the village. The group will be contributing the majority of the costs themselves and they have got contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that the 'supported by Cheshire East' logo is displayed at the event.

Audlem Special Events Team

Total project cost £5,044	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Audlem Special Events Team requires funding towards holding a village transport festival which is a free event for local residents and visitors. Costs include children's entertainment, crowd barriers, programmes and advertising and signage. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions, it is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that the 'supported by Cheshire East' logo is displayed at the event.

Audlem Youth Club

Total project cost £920	Amount requested £920	Amount awarded £500
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Audlem Youth Club is currently in the set up phase and requires funding for equipment to help them establish such as sports tables, arts and craft materials and outdoor summer equipment. The club are not contributing themselves to the equipment purchase but have very little reserves due to being newly established. They do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the Parish Council.

Autism Inclusive

Total project cost £1,539	Amount requested £864	Amount awarded £500
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Autism Inclusive is a new group in Crewe. They require funding to purchase equipment which will allow them to run a movie club which will be autism friendly. Most autism friendly screenings at local cinemas are aimed at children. Equipment includes a projector, screen and blackout blinds. The group are not contributing to the project, but do not have any reserves. They have a donation towards the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

Bickerton Village Hall

Total project cost £1,483	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Bickerton Village Hall is applying for funding to set up weekly art classes, which will be led by a qualified art teacher. The hall aims to offer new experiences to the community. There will be an adult art class and also a children's art class running after school. Funding is required towards starter packs for the children and for the art teacher to come into the hall for a 9 week period. The hall will be contributing towards the costs themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they also approach other funding sources, such as the local parish council for the remaining project costs.

Carers Trust 4 All

Total project cost £4,476	Amount requested £3,500	Amount awarded £1,000
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Carers Trust 4 All requires funding to increase the sensory equipment available at their 'Fun Club' which is run for children with disabilities. The application has been made under the facilities category. However, due to the type of equipment being purchased, it fits under the activities category. The group will be making a small contribution, despite large reserves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and apply to other funding sources.

Cheshire Academy of Integrated Sport and The Arts

Total project cost £3,600	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Cheshire Academy requires funding towards equipment for the set-up of a disabled adults activity club. Costs include multi activity equipment, flyers, premises hire and facilitator costs. The group are contributing towards the costs themselves and have donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

Cheshire East ABC

Total project cost £3,208	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Cheshire East ABC requires funding towards coach training due to the increased number of members at the gym. This will mean better facilities can be offered to members due to having properly trained coaches. The club will be contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750.

C M Vision

Total project cost £1,820	Amount requested £970	Amount awarded £750
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C M Vision is holding an afternoon tea dance event and requires funding for a band/singer and equipment such as trestle tables. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750.

Community Spirit

Total project cost £2,750	Amount requested £750	Amount awarded £750
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Community Spirit requires funding to hold a community fun day, costs include the hire of activities such as inflatables, creepy crawly workshops and 'fun bus'. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 on the condition that the 'supported by Cheshire East' logo is displayed at the event.

Congleton Choral Society

Total project cost £3,871	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Congleton Choral Society is taking part in a large concert in Congleton Town Hall and requires funding towards the support of professional musicians. The group will be making a contribution themselves and will have income from ticket sales. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

CYGNETS

Total project cost £7,409	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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CYGNETS are requesting funding towards putting on a large event to fill the gap brought by the Barnaby festival being bi-annual. Planned activities include circus skills, acting skills, dance sessions, street dance, cheerleading, samba drumming etc. Funding is required towards many of these activities as well as venue hire. The group will be contributing towards the costs and will have income from wrist bands being sold on the day, as well as other donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Family History Society - Crewe

Total project cost £652	Amount requested £568	Declined
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The group are creating a commemorative quilt in recognition of those that lost their lives in WW1. Funding is required towards the quilting and towards the production of a memorial book to accompany the quilt. Funding for WW1 commemoration events was available for the financial year of 2014/15 only and it is not felt that this will benefit wider community, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Friends of Congleton Park

Total project cost £3,000	Amount requested £500	Amount Awarded £500
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Friends of Congleton Park are holding an event entitled 'Brass on the Grass' which will be free for the community to attend. Funding is required towards a marquee, advertising, signage and bands. The group are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Macclesfield Academy Learning Community

Total project cost £1,750	Amount requested £1,000	Deferred
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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. Information on the organisation bank account is missing. It is recommended the application is deferred pending the receipt of missing information and clarification of whether service is already being commissioned.

Macclesfield and District Sheep Dog Trials Association

Total project cost £15,610	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £1,000
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This group will be holding the 2015 English National Sheepdog Trials competition which brings competitors from all over the country. Many other activities will also be taking place at the event which is open to the public with an aim of promoting farming and the rural community. This is a large event and the group will be contributing themselves and fundraising, there are also various contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield Community Partnership

Total cost not specified	Amount requested £500	Declined
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Macclesfield Community Partnership is requesting funding towards the costs of their monthly lunch club. A breakdown of costs has not been provided. The application was deferred from the January round of grants. As the previous grant awarded has not yet been finalised and as food costs cannot be funded, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Mobility and Access Group

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested not stated	Deferred
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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. Parts of the form are incomplete; it is not clear how much funding is required from Cheshire East. Bank account details have not been included on the form. It is recommended that the application is deferred to June pending the receipt of missing information.

Nantwich Choral Society

Total project cost £7,730	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Nantwich Choral Society requires funding towards the costs of hiring an orchestra and soloists for their concert which is being held jointly with a German Choir. The group will have income from ticket sales and have a contribution from Nantwich Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that the remaining project costs come from the large reserves.

One World 2015

Total project cost £4,275	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £800
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One World is a festival that involves local residents that originate from other cultures and countries providing a unique insight to the community including national dishes, costumes and artefacts. Funding is required for posters, advertising and craft materials. The group are contributing themselves and have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £800 due to other costs being ineligible.

Sandbach Ceilidhs

Total project cost £1,355	Amount requested £451	Amount awarded £451
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Sandbach Ceilidhs require funding towards holding a 'Day of Dance' event, which brings Morris Dancing into the town centre. Eligible costs include advertising banners, publicity and band hire. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £451.

Sandbach Voices

Total project cost £1,450	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £500
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Sandbach Voices are holding a 'Come and Sing' day which invites local choirs and individuals to sing with them, resulting in a concert evening. Costs include advertising and professional musician fees. A grant was awarded for similar purposes last year. The group are contributing themselves but do not have any other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they approach other funders subject to the confirmation of bank account name.

SOL Theatre School

Total project cost £14,350	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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SOL Theatre School require funding to hire Daneside Theatre to provide a venue for performances by the children from the summer school. Funding is also required towards musical licences for the performance.

Unfortunately, venue hire cannot be funded by the scheme and a grant was awarded in 2014 for musical licences. Repeat funding cannot be granted.

The group will be contributing themselves and they do have contributions from elsewhere, it is therefore recommended that they are awarded £1,000 but towards other project costs such as advertising and printing or costumes.

Team Congleton Ltd

Total project cost £4,000	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Team Congleton require funding towards their 'Every Step Counts' programme. Whilst the programme is to encourage the whole community to partake in more walking activities, this application is requesting funding specifically to engage with school age children by providing incentives such as pedometers and through marketing materials. The group have contributions from elsewhere and have very little reserves; it is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

The Alderley Edge Orchestra

Total project cost £3,800	Amount requested £350	Amount awarded £350
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The Alderley Edge Orchestra requires funding towards professional conductors and soloists for their concerts. The group will have income from ticket sales and grants from other sources. A grant was awarded in 2014 for the same purpose. As repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that they are awarded £350 towards other project costs of music hire and instruments.

The Lindow Singers

Total project cost £4,200	Amount requested £400	Amount awarded £400
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The Lindow Singers require funding towards the cost of music hire, choir and orchestra for their 2015 concerts. The group are contributing themselves and will have income from ticket sales. It is recommended that they are awarded £400 subject to the receipt of their constitution document.

The Sandstone Ridge Trust

Total project cost £3,812	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £500
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The Sandstone Ridge Trust require funding for the purchase of specialist equipment to enable their volunteers to survey, measure and record ancient trees throughout the Cheshire East area that borders Sandstone Ridge. It is hoped that with this equipment, more volunteers will become involved which will generate more community activity. The group will be contributing themselves and have applied to other sources. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 as a contribution and that they contribute the rest from their large reserves.

Wheelock Holiday Club

Total project cost £631	Amount requested £130	Amount awarded £130
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Wheelock Holiday Club is applying for funding towards the purchase of a hand held microphone to enhance drama and singing activities. The group will be contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £130.

Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society

Total project cost £2,281	Amount requested £350	Amount awarded £350
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Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra requires funding towards the cost of music hire for a concert taking place in June. The group will have income from ticket sales and will have donations from the night. It is recommended that they are awarded £350.

Wybunbury World War One Community Group

Total project cost £1,650	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Wybunbury WW1 Community Group have established to research and honour the men of the village and surrounding areas who gave their lives in the First World War. The group aim to print a book which will be given to the leavers of the local primary school each year during the commemoration period. Funding is required for research and printing costs. Funding for WW1 commemoration events was available for the financial year of 2014/15 only and as the books will only be for the benefit of the school leavers and not the wider community, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Facilities:

Bollington Community Centre

Total project cost £20,000	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £3,500
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Bollington Community Centre requires funding for a kitchen refurbishment, particularly the flooring, which is old and in poor condition. They also aim to install energy efficient lighting, additional cupboards, work tables and a new dishwasher. Funding from CE will be used as 3rd party funding for an application to WREN. The group will be making a contribution as well as applying to other sources for the remaining project cost. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 subject to the confirmation of WREN funding.

Bollington Initiative Trust

Total project cost £340,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Bollington Initiative Trust requires funding to restore and refurbish a former secondary school which has recently been transferred from Cheshire East. This is a large project with a lot of grant funding from other sources and a large contribution from the organisation. The application was deferred from the January. When taking on the asset, the organisation also took on accountability for the future development of the building, including funds for renovation. When transferring assets from the Council we need to ensure that they are cost neutral to the authority, and indeed the tax payer, and therefore it is recommended that the application is declined.

Bunbury Playground Committee

Total project cost £237,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Bunbury Playground Committee is requesting a grant towards the payment of professional fees in relation to their large project to refurbish and improve the local play area. A substantial amount of funding was awarded from Cheshire East in 2014 for the same project, including a £3,000 community grant, for which monitoring information has not yet been received. As repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Croft Village Memorial Hall

Total project cost £9,336	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Croft Village Memorial Hall is based in Warrington and is therefore ineligible for funding through the community grants scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Disley Cricket Club

Total project cost £5,760	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £2,500
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Disley Cricket Club requires funding for the purchase of new sightscreens following a promotion to division 1 of the Cheshire Cricket League. The club are making a small contribution themselves and have a small contribution from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 and that the remaining project costs are sought from alternative sources of fundraising.

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Total project cost £6,540	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre requires funding to create a volunteer programme and costs include recording equipment, microphones and software as well as gardening equipment. The application was deferred from January pending information on the relationship of the centre to the University of Manchester. Although Jodrell Bank operates as a separate not for profit organisation to the university, the bank account is that of the university. They will be contributing to the project themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that the application is declined due to the relationship with the overarching organisation of the University of Manchester. The community grant scheme is aimed at supporting small scale projects for organisations that have limited access to funding. It is recommended that a 'Friends of' group is set up for local community projects at Jodrell bank, with its own bank account and constitution where clear local benefits can be demonstrated.

Nantwich Methodist Church

Total project cost £1,500	Amount requested £1,500	Amount awarded £750
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Nantwich Methodist Church requires funding for the resurfacing of the floor in the main hall which is used by many groups for community and social activities. The Church are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and seek support from other organisations or from their own reserves.

Over Water Wheely Boat Project

Total project cost £26,752	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £3,500
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Over Water Wheely Boat Project is a new project to provide opportunities for disabled adults and children to enjoy the canal in a purpose built boat. This is a large project with numerous grant applications being made to other organisations as well as support from the Wheely Boat Trust. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500.

Pott Shrigley Cricket Club

Total project cost £3,699	Amount requested £3,300	Amount awarded £750
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Pott Shrigley Cricket Club requires funding to install a disabled toilet to provide a facility that welcomes all members of the community also for tiling of the kitchen walls and floor to create a clean and presentable environment during cricket games and during events. The club have a donation but are not contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 towards the costs of re-tiling the kitchen as unfortunately, disabled facilities where there is no proven need for the work to be carried out or where upgrading is required for an existing facility to meet the statutory requirements of the DDA cannot be funded.

Sandbach Gymnastics Supporters

Total project cost £7,146	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £2,000
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Sandbach gymnastics supporters require funding to increase the facilities in the gym due to recent membership increases. New equipment will include a pit, foam cubes and safety matting. The group will be contributing towards the project themselves but they do not have any contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and that they seek the remaining project costs from other funding sources such as the Town Council.

St John's Pre-School

Total project cost £4,577	Amount requested £4,577	Declined
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St John's Pre-School requires funding to fix the roof that currently leaks, resulting in damp and is becoming dangerous. The pre-school have not applied elsewhere and are not contributing towards the costs. Unfortunately, the community grant scheme is unable to support projects which are for the sole benefit of pupils of a school or college. As this will not benefit the wider community, it is recommended that the application is declined.

St Stephen's Methodist Church

Total project cost £7,320	Amount requested £2,000	Amount awarded £1,750
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St Stephen's Church kitchen is used by many groups and outreach activities but is now more than 50 years old and in need of refurbishment. The Church also requires repairs to the guttering of the church hall, due to experiencing leaks. The church hall is also used as a night shelter as well by uniformed groups and pre-schools. The church will be contributing to the project themselves and have a donation. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,750.

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 2015/16

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. 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 a 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:

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