

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of meeting: 25 July 2011.
Report of: Partnerships Manager
Title: Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor David 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 focused on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The report covers the second round of grants for 2011/12, and makes recommendations totalling £16,700 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants.

2.0 Recommendations

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

Events Grant.

St. John Ambulance Combined Cadet Division	awarded £250
OCEAN	awarded £250
Alsager Ladies Circle	awarded £250
Sandbach Today 2011	awarded £250
Bollington Chamber Concerts	awarded £250
Macclesfield Music Society	awarded £250
Macclesfield Art Group	awarded £250
Sandbach Ceilidhs	awarded £250
Congleton Harriers	awarded £250
The Lindow Singers	awarded £250
Northern Chamber Orchestra	awarded £250
Congleton Musical Theatre	awarded £250
Poynton Parish Plan	awarded £250
Sandbach Literary Institute	awarded £250
New Life Pre-School Nursery	awarded £250

Activities Grant.

Weston Cricket Club	awarded £400
Congleton Lawn Tennis Club	awarded £400
Poynton RBL Concert Band	awarded £350

AGE UK Cheshire	declined
Crewe & Nantwich Seniors Voice Group	awarded £250
The Community Resource Centre	awarded £250
Nantwich Camera Club	awarded £250
Sandbach Netball Club	awarded £400
Congleton Cricket Club	awarded £400
Crewe Concert Band	awarded £350
Friends of Sandbach Park	awarded £400
Home Start East Cheshire	awarded £500
Sensory Stars	deferred
Aim2train Football Coaching	deferred
Macclesfield Junior Netball Club	awarded £400
Holmes Chapel Basketball Club	awarded £400
No Barriers	declined
Richmond Rovers JFC	declined
Wilmslow Wizards Basketball Club	awarded £400
Chongi Thai Boxing Club	awarded £400
Food4Macc	awarded £400
Park Royal Football Club	awarded £367

Facilities Grant.

Wynbunbury Plan Implementation Group	awarded £1,890
Holmes Chapel Community Pre School	declined
Body Positive Cheshire & North Wales	awarded £1,000
VISYON Ltd	awarded £3,000
Chelford Parish Hall	awarded £1,143

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (Details of Grants)

3.1 EVENTS (UP TO £250)

St. John Ambulance Combined Cadet Division
 OCEAN
 Alsager Ladies Circle
 Sandbach Today 2011
 Bollington Chamber Concerts
 Macclesfield Music Society
 Macclesfield Art Group
 Sandbach Ceilidhs
 Congleton Harriers
 The Lindow Singers
 Northern Chamber Orchestra
 Congleton Musical Theatre
 Poynton Parish Plan
 Sandbach Literary Institute
 New Life Pre-School Nursery

The above events are all annual productions/events, some with quite high costs and receive income from ticket sales as well as refreshments, programmes etc. These events are important to Cheshire East district as they do make a difference to local residents by way of enabling them to see local talent performing at reasonable prices. It is recommended that they be awarded a grant of up to £250 and that their profit/loss for the events be monitored

3.2 ACTIVITIES (up to £500)

Weston Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project - £1,064 Amount Requested - £500

This Club has an expanding Junior Section and needs to repair the wicket to ensure it is safe and fit to play. They are also undertaking coaching sessions by a Grade 3 Coach. The coaching fees are £450 and the wicket repairs are £614. They are contributing £564 themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £400 and advised to contact Cheshire East Council's Cricket Development Officer for support.

Congleton Lawn Tennis Club–

Total Cost of Project - £1,000 Amount Requested - £500

This Club wishes to undertake a six week coaching course, in conjunction with Cheshire East Council's Sports Development Officer, aimed at increasing membership of the Tennis Club which would be offered at a reduced rate to participants of the course. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Poynton RBL Concert Band –

Total Cost of Project - £4,590 Amount Requested - £500

The Band wishes to purchase 45 new jackets to replace old ones which are now 25 years old and in a state of deterioration. An increase in membership means that there are no jackets for new members. They are contributing £1,500 themselves and have also applied to Awards for All. It is recommended they be awarded £350 and advised to apply to Poynton Town Council for funding.

AGE UK Cheshire –

Total Cost of Project - £600 Amount Requested - £500

This project proposes to reach older people no longer capable of attending mainstream activities by providing a mobile bowls opportunity at various venues such as nursing homes, housing associations and support groups in the Crewe area. The association has substantial free reserves (£314k) but are only contributing £100 themselves. The guidelines state that organisations with substantial free reserves including national organisations are not eligible for funding. It is recommended that the application be declined and the applicants be advised to contact local Registered Social Landlords for funding and support.

Crewe & Nantwich Seniors Voice Group–

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

The Community Resource Centre (Macclesfield) –

Total Cost of Project - £472.15 Amount Requested - £472.15

The above two projects are in conjunction.

The Crewe and Nantwich Group wishes to purchase equipment to demonstrate the use of slow cookers to the elderly and their carers. The cost of the camcorder and blender is £395 and the equipment £105. They are not contributing themselves or applied for funding elsewhere.

The Macclesfield Group facilitates luncheon clubs for the elderly. They are applying for funding to purchase the slow cookers. The Police provide transport for the luncheon clubs and the venue is provided free of charge.

It is recommended that both groups are awarded £250 and be asked to provide details of numbers attending the sessions and the age range of the participants. It is noted that the grant award to the Crewe and Nantwich Group be specifically for the blender and equipment and not for the camcorder.

Nantwich Camera Club –

Total Cost of Project - £2,157 Amount Requested - £500

This group wishes to purchase a replacement digital projector which would enhance the quality of member's work and enable images to be projected professionally for competition work. They are contributing £1,656 from their own funds which is all their reserves. They have applied for funding from Awards for All but been declined. They have not applied to Nantwich Town Council. It is recommended they be awarded £250 and advised to apply to Nantwich Town Council.

Sandbach Netball Club –

Total Cost of Project - £1,241 Amount Requested - £500

This is a new Club which aims to promote Netball in the Sandbach area. They have a limited bank account and have received £300 from Sandbach Town Council. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Congleton Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project - £1,550 Amount Requested - £500

The Club wishes to replace a deteriorating old, heavy sightscreen which will improve playing and coaching facilities for their thriving Junior Section. The ground is used for the CEC Kwik Cricket Tournament for local Primary Schools. They are contributing themselves and have received £500 from NatWest Cricketforce. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Crewe Concert Band –

Total Cost of Project - £1,500 Amount Requested - £500

This Band has recently changed its name from Crewe West End Concert Band to Crewe Concert Band and wish to purchase new music stand banners to reflect this. They are contributing £1,000 themselves which uses the majority of their own funds. It is recommended they be awarded £350

Friends of Sandbach Park –

Total Cost of Project - £1,084 Amount Requested - £500

A newly formed group aiming to enhance Sandbach Park by planting schemes, improving woodland areas and providing picnic benches. They have received funding from Sandbach Partnership and BTCV and are contributing themselves. They have applied to Sandbach Town Council for insurance and website costs. It is recommended that they be awarded £400

Home Start East Cheshire –

Total Cost of Project - £1,265 Amount Requested - £500

This organisation was formerly based in Congleton but has moved to Macclesfield. They need to update their promotional materials and purchase additional IT equipment due to the move. This would enable them to promote themselves and recruit more volunteers. They have limited funds themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £500

Sensory Stars –

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

A newly formed group wishing to start sensory sessions and support for pre-school special needs children in the Handforth area. They are applying for venue hire for 20 weeks. They have very little funding and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that the application be deferred and the applicant be requested to supply details of the proposed venue and how they intend to promote the project.

Aim2train Football Coaching –

Total Cost of Project - £468 Amount Requested - £468

A new group applying for venue hire in Wilmslow to provide free coaching sessions for children 5-16 and training 16+ to become qualified coaches. They have no funds themselves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that the application be deferred and the applicant be requested to supply details of how they intend to promote the project.

Macclesfield Junior Netball Club –

Total Cost of Project - £890 Amount Requested - £500

A growing club with a waiting list. They wish to develop by training more coaches which will enable them to interact with local schools and to take on more members. They are contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Holmes Chapel Basketball Club –

Total Cost of Project - £1,200 Amount Requested - £500

A well established Club wishing to develop their Junior Section giving them more opportunities for coaching sessions and to feed in to the Senior Section. They are applying for a grant towards coaching sessions and equipment and are contributing themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £400

No Barriers –

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500

An association in Crewe for migrant workers. They are applying for funding to rent a flat. It is recommended that the application be refused as the Community Grant Programme does not fund rental costs. It is also recommended that the applicants be advised to contact the Polish Association and the CVS for assistance.

Richmond Rovers JFC –

Total Cost of Project - £1,000 Amount Requested - £1,000

This Club wishes to purchase and install goalposts on a pitch granted to them by Poynton Town Council. They have a substantial bank account (£15k) but are not contributing themselves nor have they raised any other funding. It is recommended that the application be refused and that the applicants be advised to contact the FA as they have grants available for installing goalposts.

Wilmslow Wizards Basketball Club –

Total Cost of Project - £8,922 Amount Requested - £500

This is new Club wishing to develop basketball in the Wilmslow area. They are applying for funding towards training courses, coaching sessions and venue hire. They have very little funding and have applied to Sport England and Clubmark. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Chongi Thai Boxing Club –

Total Cost of Project - £640 Amount Requested - £500

This Club has an expanding membership, are very proactive and work with some challenging young people across Cheshire East. The current sessions have reached capacity in terms of equipment and they are applying for funding to purchase specialist Thai Boxing equipment. They have not applied for funding elsewhere and are only making a small contribution themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Food4Macc –

Total Cost of Project - £1,050 Amount Requested - £500

A group of volunteers who aim to encourage the growing of fruit and vegetables involving local communities and schools. They are very organised but have limited funding. They received a grant in 2010 towards the establishment of a community vegetable garden and are now applying for funding for a community fruit orchard. It is recommended they be awarded £400

Park Royal Football Club –

Total Cost of Project - £367 Amount Requested - £367

This is a new Club applying for start-up funding for coaching and training sessions and training equipment. It is recommended they be awarded £367 and be advised to contact Cheshire East Council's Club Development Officer for support and advice.

3.3 FACILITIES (up to £3,000)

Wynbunbury Plan Implementation Group –

Total Cost of Project - £1,890 Amount Requested - £1,890

This Group received a grant of £1,500 in April 2010 towards the costs of refurbishing the playground in conjunction with WREN following the completion of the Wynbunbury Parish Plan. They now wish to purchase 3 benches to complete the project (2 x £150); 1 x £870). They have very limited funds which they have "earmarked" for their launch celebration. It is recommended they be awarded £1,890

**Holmes Chapel Community Pre School –
Total Cost of Project - £775 Amount Requested - £775**

This Group wishes to repaint the exterior of their building which is now looking scruffy. They have applied for funding from Holmes Chapel Parish Council and have also done their own fundraising, however they are still requesting the full amount from CEC. It is recommended that the application be declined.

**Body Positive Cheshire & North Wales –
Total Cost of Project - £3,012 Amount Requested - £1,500**

This is a Centre used for support and counselling for those affected by HIV and AIDS. They wish to replace rotten windows and undertake external redecoration. The Centre receives core funding from other LAs such as Warrington and Halton. They are making a contribution themselves. It is recommended they be awarded £1,000

**VISYON Ltd –
Total Cost of Project - £14,436 Amount Requested - £3,000**

This organisation provides free counselling services for children and young people. They are relocating and need to undertake refurbishment works to make the building fit for purpose including partitioning rooms, new doors with security access and flooring. They are contributing themselves and have received £1,750 from Congleton Town Council. The building will continue to be used by the current users in addition to VISYON. It is recommended they be awarded £3,000 and that the applicant be requested to supply details of the current user groups and the timescale for the groups returning to the refurbished building.

**Chelford Parish Hall –
Total Cost of Project - £1,443 Amount Requested - £1,143**

This application is for replacement of old and inefficient kitchen equipment such as the cooker and hot water system. There has been a reduction in bookings due to the outdated facilities and replacement would increase bookings. They have £300 to contribute themselves and the Parish Council are funding the costs of a new central heating boiler. It is recommended they be awarded £1,143

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All wards within Cheshire East Council

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Wards within Cheshire East Council

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 2011/12 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2011/12

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 In awarding grants, the Council must ensure that in each case it has the legal power to fund the proposed scheme. In all cases there is a condition requiring a report back to the Council on the expenditure of the grant. Consideration should also be given in each case to the imposition of other appropriate conditions.

8.2 The Council's legal powers for awarding these grants are contained in various statutes, including Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. In addition, the Council should ensure that there is a transparent process and policy in respect of determining the level of grant subsidy to any community group.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 None

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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