

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

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**Date of Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013  
**Report of:** Partnerships Manager  
**Subject/Title:** Policy for the Allocation of Grants  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor D Brown

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### 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 2013/14 and makes recommendations totalling £25,762 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

#### Events

Acton Amateur Operatic Society	Awarded £250
Alsager Ladies Circle	Declined
Centre Stage Youth Theatre Company	Declined
Cheshire African Women's Foundation	Declined
Cheshire Wildlife trust	Awarded £250
CM Vision	Awarded £250
Community Spirit	Awarded £250
Disley Parish Plan Implementation Group	Deferred
OCEAN	Declined
Pride Well Dressing	Awarded £250
Wilmslow Show	Awarded £250

#### Activities

Bollington Chamber Concerts	Declined
Changing Lanes	Declined
Congleton Museum Trust	Awarded £150
Disley Arts Society	Awarded £350
Disley Badminton	Awarded £300
Iris Vision resource centre	Awarded £400
Knutsford Amateur Swimming Club	Declined
Knutsford Cricket Club	Awarded £300
Lacey Green Football Club	Declined
Middlewich Vision	Awarded £250

Sandbach Voices	Declined
SOL Theatre School	Awarded £150
The Barnby Choir	Awarded £300
The Neuromuscular Centre	Declined
Toft Cricket Club	Awarded £300
Wheelock Holiday Club	Awarded £112

### **Facilities**

Anson Engine Museum	Awarded £2,500
Bollington Arts Centre	Deferred
Chelford Parish Village Hall	Deferred
Chelford Tenants and Residents Association	Awarded £1,750
Community Performance Arts Centre	Deferred
Crewe Heritage Trust	Awarded £2,400
F.A.R.U.P	Awarded £500
go-lo Macclesfield	Deferred
Good Companions Bowling Club	Deferred
Humane Education Society	Awarded £1,750
Ja Pomagam Crewe	Declined
Macclesfield Community Artspace	Awarded £2,500
Middlewich Cricket Club	Deferred
Prestbury Tennis Club	Deferred
Scholar Green Community Village Hall	Awarded £2,000
St Peter's Church	Awarded £2,500
Sutton Ex-Servicemen's Village Hall	Awarded £2,500
Visyon	Awarded £2,500
Wilmslow Bowling Club	Deferred

### **Community Led Planning Starter Grant**

Bunbury 2013 & Beyond	Awarded £250
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### **Community Led Planning Development Grant**

Nether Alderley Looking Forward	Awarded £500
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## **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)**

### **3.1 Events:**

#### **Acton Amateur Operatic Society -**

#### **Total Cost of Project - £31,248 Amount Requested - £250**

Acton Amateur Operatic Society requires funding towards the props and scenery of their musical. It is recommended they are awarded £250.

#### **Alsager Ladies Circle -**

#### **Total Cost of Project - £2,300 Amount Requested - £250**

Alsager Ladies Circle are holding a 'One World' event and require funding towards advertisement and workshops. A signed constitution was not submitted to support the application, which is a requirement of the grant guidelines. It is recommended the application is declined.

**Centre Stage Youth Theatre Company -**

**Total Cost of Project - £6,750 Amount Requested - £250**

Centre Stage Youth Theatre Company requires funding for props and scenery. Unfortunately, the event is due to take place before the grant round closing date. The grant guidelines state that we cannot fund retrospectively therefore, it is recommended the application is declined.

**Cheshire African Women's Foundation -**

**Total Cost of Project - £850 Amount Requested - £250**

Cheshire African Women's Foundation requires funding towards an exhibition which they are holding to launch the foundation. They have submitted a constitution but it is not yet signed and bank account information has not been provided. The grant guidelines state that this information must be submitted in support of applications. It is recommended the application is declined.

**Cheshire Wildlife Trust -**

**Total Cost of Project - £2,700 Amount Requested - £250**

Cheshire Wildlife Trust requires funding towards Willow Weavers for their wildlife discovery day. There are other contributions confirmed. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

**CM Vision -**

**Total Cost of Project - £800 Amount Requested - £250**

CM Vision is holding a community fun day and requires funding towards promotion, lighting etc. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

**Community Spirit -**

**Total Cost of Project - £2,800 Amount Requested - £250**

Community Spirit is holding a fun day in July and requires funding towards advertisement and hire of bouncy castles. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

**Disley Parish Plan Implementation Group -**

**Total Cost of Project - £1,055 Amount Requested - £250**

Disley Parish Plan Implementation Group requires funding towards their village festival which is due to take place at the end of August. It is recommended the application is deferred to July due to the high volume of applications received in April.

**OCEAN -**

**Total Cost of Project - £250 Amount Requested - £250**

Further information on costs was requested as the application states £1000 has been applied to from elsewhere, which will cover the total project cost. No detail of the bank account name has been provided, which is a requirement of the grant guidelines. It is therefore recommended the application is declined.

**Pride Well Dressing -**

**Total Cost of Project - £2,253 Amount Requested - £250**

Pride Well Dressing requires funding towards the main well dressing board for their well dressing event. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

**Wilmslow Show -****Total Cost of Project - £21,500 Amount Requested - £250**

Wilmslow show require funding towards their annual show which is due to take place in July 2013 and attracts 6000+ visitors. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

**Activities:****Bollington Chamber Concerts -****Total Cost of Project - £8,100 Amount Requested - £500**

Bollington Chamber Concerts are applying to offset losses from their concerts that take place throughout the year. Unfortunately this cannot be funded, as stated in the grant guidelines. It is recommended the application is declined.

**Changing Lanes -****Total Cost of Project - £546 Amount Requested - £500**

Changing Lanes submitted an application for refreshments and room hire. Unfortunately, these elements cannot be funded by the scheme, as stated in the grant guidelines. This was explained to the group upon application and they were invited to reapply. A second application was received for travel expenses and phone credit, these also cannot be funded. It is recommended the application is declined.

**Congleton Museum Trust -****Total Cost of Project - £350 Amount Requested - £270**

Congleton Museum Trust requires funding for a donation box (in the shape of a bear) and training of front of house staff. They have considerable reserves and have not applied elsewhere, it is recommended that they are awarded £150 as a contribution and also approach the Town Council for assistance.

**Disley Arts Society -****Total Cost of Project - £3,660 Amount Requested - £500**

Disley Arts Society wishes to hold art exhibition/workshops with demonstrations. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 as a contribution and apply to parish council for assistance.

**Disley Badminton -****Total Cost of Project - £675 Amount Requested - £500**

Disley Badminton is requesting funding towards training coaches, which will enable them to offer junior sessions. They have a contribution from the parish council. It is recommended they are awarded £300.

**Iris Vision Resource Centre -****Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £500**

Iris Vision requires funding for training courses in low vision therapy for a new member of the team. They are contributing the majority of costs themselves, it is recommended that they are awarded £400.

**Knutsford Amateur Swimming Club -**

**Total Cost of Project - £1,925 Amount Requested - £1,925**

Knutsford Amateur Swimming Club requires funding for the training of 5 volunteers. This group applies annually. They are requesting the full amount of project, however, only £500 can be awarded in category, and as they have not applied elsewhere, training will not be able to take place. It is recommended the application is declined.

**Lacey Green Football Club -**

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

Lacey Green Football Club is applying for funding towards equipment and shirts. This is a new group, currently in the start up phase and they are not yet constituted with their own bank account. Requirements for the grant were explained upon receipt of the application and they were given contact details of CE Club Development Officer. It is recommended the application is declined.

**Middlewich Vision -**

**Total Cost of Project - £7,517 Amount Requested - £300**

Middlewich Vision is requesting funding towards promotional materials for a good neighbour scheme that they plan to set up. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 on the condition of receiving confirmation of funding from other contributors.

**Sandbach Voices -**

**Total Cost of Project - £12,513 Amount Requested - £500**

Sandbach Voices require funding for ongoing costs. Unfortunately, on going costs cannot be funded as stated in the guidelines. A revised application was requested, however, none received as of the closing date. No constitution was received to support the application. It is recommended the application is declined.

**SOL Theatre School -**

**Total Cost of Project - £13,750 Amount Requested - £500**

SOL Theatre School is requesting funding towards t-shirts for the children attending the summer school. Approximately 45 children will be in attendance. It is recommended that £150 is awarded as a contribution.

**The Barnby Choir -**

**Total Cost of Project - £440 Amount Requested - £400**

The Barnby Choir has been invited to perform with the Wilmslow festival and they require funding towards conductor and accompanist. They are currently operating at a loss. This will be a good opportunity to showcase choir. It is recommended they are awarded £300.

**The Neuromuscular Centre -**

**Total Cost of Project - £375 Amount Requested - £375**

The Neuromuscular Centre is applying for funding towards outings/day trips for carers. Unfortunately, outings/day trips cannot be funded by the scheme, as stated in the grant guidelines. It is recommended that the application is declined.

**Toft Cricket Club -**

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

Toft Cricket Club requires funding for throw down pitches for their junior section. They are contributing a small amount themselves and they have a fair amount of reserves, it is recommended they are awarded £300 as a contribution.

**Wheelock Holiday Club -****Total Cost of Project - £397 Amount Requested - £112**

Wheelock holiday club wish to purchase a child sized table and outdoor games for their summer holiday club, they are contributing themselves despite very little reserves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £112.

**Facilities:****Anson Engine Museum -****Total Cost of Project - £17,435 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Anson Engine Museum requires funding to build a new store at the museum that is fit to preserve the conditions of the large engines. The museum has large reserves but is contributing themselves and have donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500.

**Bollington Arts Centre -****Total Cost of Project - £6,883 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Bollington Arts Centre requires funding to purchase acoustic curtains to replace old blackout curtains and provide a backdrop in the auditorium as well as enhancing acoustics. The project is not due to commence until October 2013, it is therefore recommended the application is deferred to July due to the high volume of applications received within this round.

**Chelford Parish Village Hall -****Total Cost of Project - £5,279 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Chelford Village Hall requires funding to replace the windows and increase the energy efficiency of the hall that is used by a large variety of people and groups. It is recommended that the application is deferred to July due to the large amount of applications received within this round.

**Chelford Tenants and residents Association -****Total Cost of Project - £4,813 Amount Requested - £2,000**

Chelford Tenants and Residents Association wish to establish community garden, and want to purchase a greenhouse and equipment to assist with set up. They have funding from other sources, and are contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1750.

**Community Performance Arts Centre -****Total Cost of Project - £50,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Community Performance Arts Centre requires funding to transform a warehouse into a community hub in Congleton, mainly for community arts activities. No other funding is secured at present, it is recommended that the application is deferred until the project is further established and more information upon funding is received.

**Crewe Heritage Trust -****Total Cost of Project - £4,130 Amount Requested - £2,930**

Crewe Heritage Trust requires funding to purchase bill boards and directional signs. They have been in talks with highways regarding the signs. It is recommended that they are conditionally awarded £2,400, pending approval with highways to put up directional signs in Crewe Town Centre.

**F.A.R.U.P -****Total Cost of Project - £1,095 Amount Requested - £1,095**

FARUP are holding summer events and require gazebos and barbeques for the events. They also wish to repaint the play area, however, quotes are still being obtained and permission sought from Cheshire East before this can be carried out. They are not contributing themselves and have no other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 towards the gazebos and barbeques as information upon the repainting is still outstanding.

**Go-lo Macclesfield -****Total Cost of Project - £12,444 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Go-lo Macclesfield are working in partnership with Bollington Initiative Trust to renovate a disused toilet block into a green deal show room. Currently awaiting details on bank accounts and a signed constitution being submitted. It is recommended the application is deferred to July.

**Good Champions Bowling Club -****Total Cost of Project - £40,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Good Champions are in the process of rebuilding their pavilion and have encountered delays. Funding will help complete long ongoing project. It is recommended that they are deferred to July pending the approval of a policy change, which will allow single use sports clubs to apply to the facilities category.

**Humane Education Society -****Total Cost of Project - £2,549 Amount Requested - £2,549**

The centre needs a new pump for their toilet, which is currently out of use, the toilet roof is also leaking. It is recommended that they are awarded £1750 and also apply to the town council for assistance.

**Ja Pomagam Crewe -****Total Cost of Project - £3,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Ja Pomagam is applying for funding to cover room hire costs for 5 months. Room hire cannot be funded as stated in the guidelines, this has been explained to the group and they were given the opportunity to amend the application which was received, but still requesting premises hire. It is recommended that the application is declined.

**Macclesfield Community Artspace -****Total Cost of Project - £30,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

This group are seeking funding towards a new community artspace in Macclesfield, with the aim of providing a permanent workshop and resource for community arts activities. Funding is being sought elsewhere, it is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 subject to confirmation of funding from the other sources.

**Middlewich Cricket Club -****Total Cost of Project - £4,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

The group require a replacement outfield mower as the current one is worn out and unreliable, reducing the field quality for play. The group can contribute £2000 themselves. It is recommended they are deferred to July pending the approval of a policy change, which will allow single use sports clubs will be able to apply under the facilities category.

**Prestbury Tennis Club -****Total Cost of Project - £12,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Prestbury Tennis Club requires funding to resurface the kidzone area. This will allow activities to take place in all weather conditions. They are contributing the remainder of costs themselves. It is recommended that they are deferred to July pending a policy change, which will allow applications to the facilities category from single use sports clubs.

**Scholar Green Community Village Hall -****Total Cost of Project - £2,910 Amount Requested - £2,910**

Scholar Green Community Village Hall requires funding to improve their kitchen area and toilets to encourage more people to hire/use the hall. There are currently regular user groups in the week. They have contributions in kind and £400 from the parish council. It is recommended that they are awarded £2000.

**St Peter's Church -****Total Cost of Project - £237,000 Amount Requested - £3,000**

St Peter's Church is a widely used church and they are seeking funding to replace the roof that is leaking. Large contributions are being made by English Heritage and National Churches trust, they are contributing a lot themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500.

**Sutton Ex-Servicemen's Village Hall -****Total Cost of Project - £9,148 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Sutton Ex Servicemen's Village Hall requires funding towards converting an office and store room into a modern kitchen. This will increase use of the hall for the community. Contributions received from Peaks & Plains and St James Legacy Fund. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500.

**Visyon -****Total Cost of Project - £6,042 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Visyon require funding to convert space to create a multi use room for small group use such as training, one to one work and advice sessions. The group have a large amount of reserves but are contributing themselves with other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500.

**Wilmslow Bowling Club -****Total Cost of Project - £7,044 Amount Requested - £3,000**

Wilmslow bowling club requires funding to replace rotting window frames/doors in their clubhouse. They have applied elsewhere and are contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are deferred to July pending approval of a policy change that will allow single use sports clubs to apply to the facilities category.



## **Community Led Planning:**

### **Bunbury 2013 and Beyond -**

#### **Total Cost of Project - £1,700 Amount Requested - £250**

Bunbury are in the process of reviewing responses to their parish planning questionnaire with a view of completing the plan by summer 2013. They are requesting a community led planning starter grant to assist with the associated costs. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

### **Nether Alderley Looking Forward -**

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

Nether Alderley Looking Forward had a starter grant of £250 in September 2012 to conduct a questionnaire within the community. They applied to have the development grant of £500 to analyse the data produced from the questionnaire. The group were deferred from January as they were yet to set up their own bank account, which is a requirement of the grant guidelines. This information has now been submitted to support the application. It is recommended they are awarded £500.

## **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 The recommendations relate to all wards within Cheshire East

## **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All Ward members

## **6.0 Policy Implications (including carbon reduction and health)**

- 6.1 All of the applications contained in this report have been considered in the light of the Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants, and the recommendations on each one conform to that Policy.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (authorised by Director of Finance and Business Services)**

- 7.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2013/14

## **8.0 Legal Implications (authorised by 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.

The Council's legal power to award these grants is contained in area specific statutes and by exercising its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The Council's decision to award a grant is subject to judicial review and this means that it must satisfy public law principles, be free from bias and not be made for improper purposes or motives. It should take into account all relevant considerations and not be otherwise irrational. In awarding or declining to award a grant the Council should also have regard to its public sector equality

duties. The existence of a grant policy with a clear statement of the criteria that the Council will apply is essential if the Council is to defend a challenge that its decision making has not been transparent or has been improper.

## **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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