

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 22nd July 2013
Report of: Partnerships Manager
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 second round of grants for 2013/14 and makes recommendations totalling £15,542 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

Congleton Musical Theatre	Awarded £250
Disley Parish Plan Implementation Group	Awarded £250
Macclesfield Art Group	Awarded £210
Open Space, Congleton Creates	Awarded £250
Poynton Jemmers North West Morris Dancers	Awarded £250
Willaston Fete Committee	Declined

Activities

Community Spirit	Declined
Crewe Amateur Boxing Club	Awarded £350
Haslington Methodist Church, Open Door Project	Awarded £250
Matrix Cheer Squad	Awarded £300
Middlewich Community Church Archers	Awarded £250
Must See Musicals	Awarded £500
Poynton Parish Plan Group	Deferred
Triton Hockey Club	Awarded £400

Facilities

38 th South West Cheshire Scouts	Awarded £1,000
Age UK Cheshire East	Deferred
Alsager Gardens Association	Deferred
Bollington Arts Centre	Awarded £2,000
Bollington Initiative Trust	Declined
Chelford Parish Village Hall	Awarded £1,750
Community Performance Arts Centre	Declined
Go-lo Macclesfield	Withdrawn by group
Good Champions Bowling Club	Declined
Middlewich Cricket Club	Awarded £1,500
New Life Church	Declined
Prestbury Tennis Club	Deferred
Sandbach Park Bowling Club	Awarded £1,000
The Wingate Special Children's Trust	Awarded £2,000
Via Dance	Declined
Weston Parish Church	Awarded £1,282
Wilmslow Bowling Club	Awarded £1,750

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Congleton Musical Theatre-

Total Cost of Project - £19,219 Amount Requested - £250

Congleton Musical Theatre requires funding towards stage lighting and a sound system for their annual show. Funding has also been requested from the Town Council. 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. They are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Macclesfield Art Group-

Total Cost of Project - £615 Amount Requested - £250

Macclesfield Art Group requires funding towards their annual art exhibition. Part of their project costs are for room hire and for refreshments, which cannot be funded, as stated in the grant guidelines. It is recommended that they are awarded £210 towards the remaining costs of printing, advertising and sundry consumables.

Open Space, Congleton Creates -

Total Cost of Project - £12,700 Amount Requested - £250

Open Space, Congleton Creates require funding towards the publicity of their 3 day arts festival in September. Lots of other contributions are being made, including one from themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Poynton Jemmers North West Morris Dancers -

Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £250

Poynton Jemmers require funding towards holding a 'Meet the Team' awareness raising and recruitment event. Money is required for display boards and publicity. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and seek support from the Town Council.

Willaston Fete Committee -

Total Cost of Project - £1,360 Amount Requested - £250

Willaston Village Fete is due to take place on 13th July which is before grants decisions have been confirmed. As retrospective funding cannot be awarded it is recommended that the application is declined.

Activities:

Community Spirit-

Total Cost of Project - £480 Amount Requested - £480

Community Spirit is requesting funding to enable 12 local young people to attend a MMU football academy. Community Spirit received funding in April 2013 and is therefore not eligible to receive more funding from the community grant scheme within this financial year. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Crewe Amateur Boxing Club-

Total Cost of Project - £599 Amount Requested - £500

Crewe Amateur Boxing Club is requesting funding towards the purchase of a serviceable treadmill for use within the club for training. They are making a small contribution themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere it is recommended that they are awarded £350.

Haslington Methodist Church, Open Door Project-

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

The Open Door Project at Haslington Methodist Church has seen their workload treble since CAB lost funding to support Oakhanger/Haslington/Crewe Green. Due to increased workload the project now requires another laptop and boards to advertise when they are in session. The group have little funds to contribute to the project themselves, and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and seek assistance from the Parish Council or other funding organisations.

Matrix Cheer Squad-

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

Matrix Cheer Squad has recently introduced a new Polish team with a Polish coach. Funding is required for costume items for this team and for the training of the new coach with basic coaching skills, first aid and safeguarding. They are making a small contribution themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £300 towards the coach training costs and that once basic skills are achieved, groups become mixed to encourage social integration.

Middlewich Community Church Archers-

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

Middlewich Community Church Archers require funding to purchase a new 'boss' and various other equipment to support the increased numbers at the club. The club are not contributing themselves but have little reserves. No applications have

been made elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and also seek assistance from other funding organisations.

Must See Musicals-

Total Cost of Project - £9,279 Amount Requested - £500

Must See Musicals require funding towards the purchase of sound and lighting equipment for their annual show. By purchasing the equipment the group will save on hire costs each time they perform which will increase sustainability. They have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Poynton Parish Plan Group-

Total Cost of Project - £700 Amount Requested - £500

Poynton Parish Plan Group has requested funding for on-going sports activities within the Poynton area. Events will be held to showcase and promote services of local sports groups. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending further information upon the groups that will be involved with the project and how closely the project is linked with the work of the Town Council.

Triton Hockey Club-

Total Cost of Project - £1,131 Amount Requested - £500

Triton Hockey club wish to introduce a 4th men's team for those juniors starting to make the transition into senior hockey. In order to start the new team, they need to purchase a new goalkeepers kit. They are contributing over half of the cost themselves, and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £400 and seek assistance from Alsager Town Council.

Facilities:

38th South West Cheshire Scouts-

Total Cost of Project - £1,725 Amount Requested - £1,500

38th South West Cheshire Scout Group requires funding in order to refurbish their kitchen which is very outdated and now unsuitable. Approximately 110 members use the building, making the need for the refurbishment a priority. A small contribution is being made by the group but funding has not been sought from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and seek assistance from the Town Council, fund raising or from their reserves.

Age UK Cheshire East-

Total Cost of Project - £4,680 Amount Requested - £3,000

Age UK CE is requesting funding to refurbish, increase accessibility and decorate the toilet area in their new centre based in Congleton. They are contributing themselves, but have not applied elsewhere. The group have considerable reserves. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending information regarding their current contract with Cheshire East.

Alsager Gardens Association-

Total Cost of Project - £8,019 Amount Requested - £3,000

Alsager Gardens Association is requesting funding for a new boundary fence due to the erosion of the existing fence, which has started to collapse into the stream. This has raised safety concerns at the site and the new fence is urgently needed. The group are contributing themselves as well as seeking contributions from the Town Council and other grant sources. It is recommended that the application is

deferred pending information upon the allotment site transfer conditions to Alsager Town Council.

Bollington Arts Centre-

Total Cost of Project - £6,883 Amount Requested - £3,000

Bollington Arts Centre requires funding to purchase a new set of acoustic curtains for their auditorium. Bollington Arts centre currently occupies an Edwardian building with very large windows which are currently covered by elderly blackout curtains. New acoustic curtains will also include a backdrop for the platform which will help to enhance acoustics. The group are contributing themselves and have a small donation. They have some reserves but made quite a large loss last year. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and apply to the town council and other funding organisations.

Bollington Initiative Trust -

Total Cost of Project - £12,444 Amount Requested - £3,000

Bollington Initiative Trust is working with a number of partners to renovate a disused toilet block into a green deal showroom which will enable the promotion of the green deal to local residents. The project is to promote the green deal and will not create community activity. It is recommended that the application is declined and they seek funding available for green deal promotions.

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. They are contributing the rest of the costs themselves, but have not applied elsewhere it is recommended that they are awarded £1,750 and apply to the parish council/ other funding organisations.

Community Performance Arts Centre -

Total Cost of Project - £50,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

This group wish to transform a warehouse into a community hub in Congleton, mainly for community arts activities. The application was deferred from April pending further information upon other funding sources towards the project. Since the decision, the group have set up a Community Arts Space outside of Cheshire East and this application is no longer relevant. It is recommended that the application is declined.

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. This application was deferred from April pending further details; however it has since been withdrawn by the group.

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. Several other contributions have been made. It is recommended that the application is declined due to significant funding already being given for this project by the predecessor authority of Congleton Borough Council.

Middlewich Cricket Club -

Total Cost of Project - £4,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

Middlewich Cricket Club are requesting grant funding towards a replacement outfield mower due to the current one be worn out and unreliable. The group are contributing themselves and do have reserves but made a small loss last year. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500 and seek assistance from other funding organisations.

New Life Church -

Total Cost of Project - £18,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

New Life Church is requesting funding to refurbish a 2nd set of toilets. Funding was granted in 2012 for the refurbishment of the 1st set of toilets. Applications are being made elsewhere and they are contributing themselves however, as the church received funding for the refurbishment of toilets last year, and have had a substantial amount of funding in the past, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Prestbury Tennis Club -

Total Cost of Project - £12,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

Prestbury Tennis Club is requesting funding to resurface their kid zone area which is currently rough tarmac, with Astroturf. This would mean it can be used in all weather conditions. The group are contributing the remainder of costs themselves and do have considerable reserves. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending further information upon the use of the reserves.

Sandbach Park Bowling Club -

Total Cost of Project - £2,000 Amount Requested - £1,000

Sandbach Park Bowling Club requires funding to install an electronically powered awning on the front of the pavilion. Their pavilion is not big enough to accommodate both home and away team and by having an awning, it will provide additional shelter. The group have a contribution from the Town Council as well as making a contribution themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

The Wingate Special Children's Trust -

Total Cost of Project - £6,316 Amount Requested - £3,000

The Wingate Special Children's Trust is requesting funding towards converting what is currently a storage area into a calming sensory area for children and young adults that use the centre with both physical and learning disabilities. They are contributing the rest of the funds themselves. The group were awarded £3,000 in 2012. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and seek assistance from the Parish Council/other funding sources.

Via Dance -

Total Cost of Project - £3,083 Amount Requested - £2,223

Via Dance require funding to refurbish a room to accommodate additional dance classes which are currently oversubscribed. Via Dance applied for and received funding for the same purpose in July 2012. Repeat funding cannot be awarded, as stated in the guidelines. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Weston Parish Church -**Total Cost of Project - £2,564 Amount Requested - £1,282**

Weston Parish Church wishes to replace the boiler in their church hall due to the current boiler being old, unreliable and costly to run. Varied groups use the hall such as mums and tots and pensioners groups. The church does not have contributions from elsewhere but will be contributing the remainder of the costs themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1282.

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

Wilmslow Bowling Club requires funding to replace rotting wooden window frames, doors and panels with upvc of their clubhouse. This will stop the leaks they are currently experiencing and improve the appearance of the clubhouse. The club are making a contribution and have support from Manchester Airport. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,750 and seek support from the Town Council.

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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