

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 14th October 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 third round of grants for 2013/14 and makes recommendations totalling £30,934 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

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| Nantwich Town Crier Committee | Awarded £250 |
| Food4Macc | Awarded £210 |
| The Neuromuscular Centre | Declined |
| Alderley Edge May Fair | Awarded £250 |
| Tatton Singers | Awarded £250 |
| Macclesfield Music Society | Awarded £250 |

Activities

| | |
|---|--------------|
| St David's Church | Awarded £500 |
| Crewe Alexandra Ladies Football Club | Awarded £300 |
| Congleton Carousels Dance Troupe | Declined |
| Bollington Pre School | Awarded £200 |
| Nantwich & Border Counties Sailing Club | Awarded £500 |
| Macclesfield Youth Brass Band | Awarded £150 |
| Congleton Pentecostal Church | Awarded £250 |
| Poynton Parish Plan Group | Withdrawn |
| Cheshire Schools Football Association | Declined |
| Congleton Choral Society | Declined |
| Langley Cricket Club | Awarded £500 |
| Greater Manchester Sports Partnership | Declined |
| Alsager Netball Club | Awarded £500 |

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| Congleton Youth In Action | Awarded £300 |
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Facilities

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| Home-Start East Cheshire | Deferred |
| Handforth Model Engineering Society | Awarded £2,912 |
| Alsager Gardens Association | Declined |
| Adullam Homes HA | Declined |
| Crewe & Nantwich Community Radio Society | Declined |
| Wrenbury Village Hall Trust | Awarded £3,000 |
| Goodwill Hall Management Committee | Awarded £3,000 |
| Age UK Cheshire East | Awarded £2,000 |
| Poynton Parish Plan Group | Awarded £2,000 |
| Henbury Millennium Green Trust | Awarded £1,650 |
| LOL Foundation | Awarded £2,120 |
| Audlem & District Community Action | Awarded £1,500 |
| High Legh Community Observatory | Awarded £1,342 |
| New Life Church | Awarded £1,000 |
| Milldale Scout Camp | Awarded £2,000 |
| Macclesfield Barnaby Festival | Awarded £2,500 |
| Prestbury Tennis Club | Awarded £1,500 |

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Nantwich Town Crier Committee-

Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £250

Nantwich Town Crier Committee is holding a Town Crier Competition in early 2014 and requires funding towards, equipment, advertising and trophies. They have contributions from elsewhere and are contributing themselves despite small reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Food4Macc-

Total Cost of Project - £690 Amount Requested - £250

Food4Macc wish to restart the Seed Potato Fair where gardeners and allotment holders come together to buy seed potatoes, vegetables and fruit trees. They are contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £210 towards advertising and carpet protectors as the remainder of the project cost is room hire, which cannot be funded by the scheme.

The Neuromuscular Centre -

Total Cost of Project – Not Specified Amount Requested - £250

The Neuromuscular Centre is applying for funding to give care givers a break and take them to various activities such as the theatre, pamper days etc. Unfortunately, outings/day trips cannot be funded by the scheme, as stated in the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants. A signed copy of the organisation constitution has not been received. It is recommended the application is declined.

Alderley Edge May Fair -

Total Cost of Project – £7,586 Amount Requested - £250

Alderley Edge May Fair is an annual community event. Funding is being sought towards various costs of the event including equipment hire, signage, prizes for competitions etc. They have applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Tatton Singers -

Total Cost of Project – £5,351 Amount Requested - £250

Tatton Singers will be putting on a Christmas Performance in Wilmslow Leisure Centre and require funding towards advertising, soloists and an orchestra. They are contributing themselves and have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Macclesfield Music Society -

Total Cost of Project – £11,342 Amount Requested - £250

Macclesfield Music Society hosts 6 concerts per year. Whilst they have asked for funding to contribute towards offsetting losses, this cannot be funded by the scheme but a contribution can be made towards their costs of artist's fees and promotion of the concerts. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Activities:

St David's Church -

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

St David's Church requires a new notice board due to the current one being beyond repair. The church is also used as a community hall by play groups and for other group activities. It is hoped that a new notice board will better inform the community of events and increase involvement. Contributions are being from the Parish Council and the Co-Op. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Crewe Alexandra Ladies Football Club -

Total Cost of Project – £1,532 Amount Requested - £500

Crewe Alexandra Ladies are setting up a new age group team for under 18s and require kit and equipment for the team. The group are not contributing themselves but have very little reserves. They have not requested funding from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £300 towards the project and that they seek additional support from other funding organisations.

Congleton Carousels Dance Troupe -

Total Cost of Project – Not specified Amount Requested - £500

Congleton Carousels is requesting funding towards costumes, trophies and shoes. It is not clear from the form what the total cost of the project will be, this information was requested upon receipt of the application but it has not been submitted. The group are not yet constituted and are therefore not eligible to receive funding from the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined. Information on becoming a constituted group has been sent.

Bollington Pre School -

Total Cost of Project – £346 Amount Requested - £346

Bollington Pre School wish to set up stay and play sessions on a Saturday morning, which will be open for families with children, aged 0 - 10 years. This will increase the local support network. Equipment is required for babies and older children as the Pre School currently only caters for ages 2 - 5 years. Equipment includes arts and craft materials and sensory toys. The group are not contributing themselves or applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £200 towards the project and that a contribution is made from the group or other funding organisations for the remaining project costs.

Nantwich & Border Counties Sailing Club -

Total Cost of Project – £900 Amount Requested - £500

Nantwich & Border Counties Sailing Club require funding for the coaching/training of 5 instructors. Once these instructors have completed the course they will be running the club's introductory sessions in 2014. No contributions are being made from elsewhere but the club will be funding the remainder of the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Macclesfield Youth Brass Band -

Total Cost of Project – £340 Amount Requested - £290

Macclesfield Youth Brass Band is requesting funding towards the purchase of 4 additional drums to increase the number of drum players within the group. The group are only contributing a small amount despite considerable reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £150 towards the drums and that they make the rest of the contribution for the project.

Congleton Pentecostal Church -

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

Congleton Pentecostal Church operates Quest, a youth club. Equipment is required for older members and the Church wish to purchase a PS3 and an Xbox to increase the range of activities offered at the youth club. The Church are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and that they seek contributions from other funding providers or contribute to the project themselves.

Poynton Parish Plan Group –

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

Poynton Parish Plan Group is requesting funding for on-going sports activities within the Poynton area. Events will be held to showcase and promote services of local sports groups. Since the deferral of the application in July, the group have withdrawn this application.

Cheshire Schools Football Association –

Total Cost of Project – £930 Amount Requested - £500

Cheshire Schools FA is hosting county cup competitions and funding is required to administer the competitions and stage the finals. This group received funding for the same purpose last year. As repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Congleton Choral Society –

Total Cost of Project – £3,698 Amount Requested - £490

Congleton Choral Society is establishing a new children's choir and have applied for room hire costs for the terms in which the children's choir will be running. Unfortunately, room hire cannot be funded by the scheme, as stated in the Policy. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Langley Cricket Club –

Total Cost of Project – £8,580 Amount Requested - £500

Langley Cricket Club requires funding towards the installation of an artificial match pitch to enable the club to run coaching sessions for children and young people. The club are making a contribution themselves and have many other contributions towards the project including funding from WREN. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Greater Manchester Sports Partnership –

Total Cost of Project – £3,000 Amount Requested - £500

Greater Manchester Sports Partnership wish to set up a Parkrun in Lyme Park. Funding is required towards a laptop, barcode scanner and other equipment. The organisation holds a large amount of reserves and therefore cannot be funded, as stated in the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants; it is recommended that the application is declined.

Alsager Netball Club –

Total Cost of Project – £1,583 Amount Requested - £500

Alsager Netball Club is requesting funding for additional netballs, bibs, kit and cones for a new 'back to netball' women's group. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Congleton Youth in Action –

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

Congleton Youth in Action wish to hold activity days for their young people. The project costs include venue hire and day trips which cannot be funded. It is therefore recommended that they are awarded £300 towards the remaining costs of sensory toys, art activities and posters/banners.

Facilities:

Home Start East Cheshire –

Total Cost of Project – £1,545 Amount Requested - £1,545

Home Start East Cheshire requires funding to update their current IT equipment to ensure the safe back up of their data. Up to date IT will enable the group to be more efficient and cost effective. The group are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is not felt that this project will widely benefit the service users of Home Start, it is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round pending further demonstration upon how the project will benefit the service users.

Handforth Model Engineering Society –

Total Cost of Project – £9,780 Amount Requested - £2,912

Handforth Model Engineering Society is requesting funding to purchase fencing and station materials for the model railway constructed in Meriton Park. With increased safety, the community will be able to enjoy the railway and they hope to increase numbers visiting the park and facilities. The group are making a contribution themselves and have small contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,912

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. During transfer of the allotments, from the ownership of Cheshire East Council to Alsager Town Council, replacement of the existing fencing was not seen as a priority. We therefore uphold this decision and decline the application for a community grant.

Adullam Homes HA –

Total Cost of Project – £77,224 Amount Requested - £3,000

Adullam Homes are applying for funding towards setting up a training café at Beech House in Congleton which will bridge the gap in the welfare to work programme for those experiencing problems becoming engaged in training or employment. Adullam Homes have applied elsewhere but are not contributing themselves. Due to the very large reserves held, it is recommended that the application is declined as organisations that hold a large amount of reserve funds cannot be funded, as stated in the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants.

Crewe & Nantwich Community Radio Society –

Total Cost of Project – £2,880 Amount Requested - £2,880

Crewe and Nantwich Community Radio Society is requesting funding towards 12 months' rental costs. Accommodation costs cannot be funded by the scheme, as stated in the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants, therefore, it is recommended the application is declined.

Wrenbury Village Hall Trust –

Total Cost of Project – £56,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

Wrenbury Village Hall Trust is undertaking a large project to refurbish both village halls which includes damp proof courses, new roofs, insulation etc. They are contributing themselves and have made large applications elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000.

Goodwill Hall Management Committee –

Total Cost of Project – £70,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

Goodwill Hall Management Committee are applying for 3rd Party funding towards their grant application to WREN for village hall refurbishment. A contribution is being made from the Parish council and they have also applied for lottery funding. It is recommended that they are awarded £3000 subject to confirmation of WREN funding.

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 application was deferred in July pending information about the current contract with CE. It has been confirmed that funding for this project has not already been given. It is recommended that they are awarded £2000 and seek assistance from other funding organisations.

Poynton Parish Plan Group –

Total Cost of Project – £67,500 Amount Requested - £3,000

Poynton Parish Plan group are revitalising two local parks in Poynton to provide modernised facilities for the local community. The group have put a large application in to WREN and require 3rd Party funding. The Town Council is covering the other part of the 3rd party funding. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 subject to the confirmation of WREN funding.

Henbury Millennium Green Trust –

Total Cost of Project – £19,575 Amount Requested - £1,650

Henbury Millennium Green Trust is applying for 3rd party funding towards their WREN application for the installation of play equipment on the Millennium Green. The need for a

play area was highlighted via a questionnaire as part of the Henbury Parish Plan. The project has other contributions also. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,650 subject to confirmation of WREN funding.

LOL Foundation –

Total Cost of Project – £27,820 Amount Requested - £2,120

The LOL Foundation is refurbishing additional premises to create more accommodation for homeless ex-servicemen. This will increase the community projects and events held by the foundation and the quality of life of the veterans. The foundation requires funding for tools and equipment. They are contributing themselves and have applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,120.

Audlem & District Community Action –

Total Cost of Project – £2,719 Amount Requested - £2,119

Audlem & District Community Action require additional storage to accommodate new chairs. They wish to purchase a metal shed. They are making a small contribution themselves and have in kind contributions but they have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500.

High Legh Community Observatory –

Total Cost of Project – £10,036 Amount Requested - £1,342

High Legh Community Observatory aim to provide a facility that will be open to the community for the enjoyment of all aspects of astronomy. The group are applying for WREN funding and require 3rd party funding. They are not contributing themselves but have very little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,342, subject to confirmation of WREN funding.

New Life Church –

Total Cost of Project – £1,900 Amount Requested - £1,500

New Life Church is requesting funding for replacement equipment for mums and tots groups and young peoples clubs due to current games and toys being old and tired. The Church also requires additional chairs for the social room and partitions for rooms to maximise useable space. The group are making a contribution themselves but have not applied elsewhere. The church is very active within the local community. It is recommended that they are awarded £1000 towards the equipment.

Milldale Scout Camp –

Total Cost of Project – £10,029 Amount Requested - £2,000

Milldale Scout Camp need to renovate the toilet block at the site which is currently 20 years old and very well used. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions towards the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £2 000.

Macclesfield Barnaby Festival –

Total Cost of Project – £4,970 Amount Requested - £2,820

Macclesfield Barnaby Festival has a portable kiosk for use during the festival and now wishes to create attachments to the kiosk it can be used as a small outdoor stage for performances. They are contributing themselves, have a small contribution from the Parish Council and in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500.

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 which are set aside for court renewal costs and floodlighting. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500 and apply to other funding organisations.

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 Chief Operating Officer)

- 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 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 2013/14. 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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