

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 27th January 2014
Report of: Principal Manager, Local Area Working
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 fourth and final round of grants for 2013/14 and makes recommendations totalling £21,881 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

Bollington Well Dressers	Awarded £250
Congleton Harriers	Awarded £250
Friends of Congleton Park	Awarded £250
Macclesfield Pioneering Women	Awarded £250
Prestbury Choral Society	Awarded £250

Activities

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust	Deferred
Cheshire Schools Football Association	Declined
Congleton Amateur Swimming Club	Awarded £500
King Edward Music Society	Awarded £150
Samaritans Crewe	Awarded £500
Sylk All Stars	Declined
The Barnby Choir	Declined

Facilities

15 th Macclesfield (URC) Sea Scout Group	Awarded £3,000
Autism Networks	Conditionally Awarded £3,000
Chelford Cricket Club	Awarded £500
Congleton RUFC	Declined
Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd	Awarded £1,500
Home-Start East Cheshire	Awarded £1,545

Macclesfield Community Partnership	Awarded £2,666
OCEAN	Declined
RedShift Radio	Awarded £2,780
Rode Heath Village Hall	Awarded £1,000
South West Cheshire Scout Network	Awarded £690
Wild Rumpus CIC	Awarded £2,800
Wykeham Chase Sheltered Housing Scheme	Declined

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Bollington Well Dressers-

Total Cost of Project - £1,431 Amount Requested - £250

Bollington Well Dressers need to replace two of their display boards due to them becoming damaged after being filled with damp clay. Bollington Well Dressers apply annually for similar purposes. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and that information on other funding sources and sustainability is sent to the group for reference.

Congleton Harriers -

Total Cost of Project - £2,280 Amount Requested - £250

Congleton Harriers are organising a hill race in March 2014. Funding is required towards prizes and printing and promotion. They are contributing themselves and have other contributions; it is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Friends of Congleton Park -

Total Cost of Project - £2,000 Amount Requested - £250

Friends of Congleton Park are holding an event to commemorate the centenary of Congleton Bandstand. The group have little reserves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 and seek assistance from the Town Council towards remaining event costs.

Macclesfield Pioneering Women -

Total Cost of Project - £2,900 Amount Requested - £250

Macclesfield Pioneering Women are holding an event in March about the achievements of local women. They require funding towards the advertisement of the event and printing of promotional materials. They have in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

Prestbury Choral Society -

Total Cost of Project - £2,200 Amount Requested - £250

Prestbury Choral Society is holding a concert in April and has requested funding towards the hire of the Orchestra. The group were awarded a grant in 2012 for the hire of the orchestra, it is therefore recommended that they are awarded £250 and that it is used towards other elements of the concert (costs for which are included in the application) such as posters and printing of flyers. Suggestions for other sources of funding will also be sent.

Activities:

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust -

Total Cost of Project - £3,750 Amount Requested - £500

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust aim to improve the local area by involving young people to grow plants and vegetables, which will improve communal space. Funding is required towards plants and equipment. The trust has a large amount of reserve funds, it is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round and that the group are contacted for further information on what they will be using the reserve funds for.

Cheshire Schools Football Association -

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

Cheshire Schools Football association are applying for funding for training tops for their under 16s girls team. The group are not contributing themselves despite having some reserves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that the application is declined and that the group contact school games organisers and individual schools to support their programmes

Congleton Amateur Swimming Club -

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

Congleton Amateur Swimming Club are requesting funding towards level 1 swim teacher training to improve the standard of teaching offered by the club. They have a contribution from elsewhere and minimal reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

King Edward Music Society -

Total Cost of Project - £316 Amount Requested - £316

King Edward Music Society is requesting funding for storage and transportation equipment for their instruments, such as a trolley. The group are not contributing themselves, despite reserves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £150 towards the equipment and that they fund the remaining costs from the reserves or seek assistance from other funding organisations.

Samaritans Crewe -

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

The Samaritans Crewe have applied for funding towards promotional materials to highlight the service that is provided 24 hours a day. They are contributing themselves and have applied to the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Sylk All Stars -

Total Cost of Project - £140 Amount Requested - £140

Sylk All Stars are a new netball club requiring funding for equipment and kit to help establish the club. The club were unable to secure a club bank account, as this is a requirement within the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants; it is recommended that the application is declined.

The Barnby Choir -

Total Cost of Project - £730 Amount Requested - £300

The Barnby Choir will be holding a concert in June 2014 and anticipate losses. The Choir have already received a community grant during 2013/14 and are therefore not eligible to receive further funding within this financial year. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Facilities:

15th Macclesfield (URC) Sea Scout Group -

Total Cost of Project - £10,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

15th Macclesfield Sea Scouts have been offered space for storage by the local church. The space needs renovating in order to be fit for purpose. The new storage space will allow the group to safely store equipment such as camping equipment and canoes. They are contributing themselves and have donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000.

Autism Networks -

Total Cost of Project - £4,131 Amount Requested - £3,000

Autism Networks require funding to develop a large indoor soft play area to benefit those with balance and spatial awareness issues in a safe environment. The group have not yet provided monitoring information from their previous grant; however, this information is being collated. It is recommended that they are provisionally awarded £3,000 upon the condition that the monitoring information is sent in as soon as it is available.

Chelford Cricket Club -

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

Chelford Cricket Club requires funding to repair their pitch roller which is essential to the club and maintenance of the grounds. They will be contributing themselves and also have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Congleton RUFC -

Total Cost of Project - £65,000 Amount Requested - £3,000

Congleton RUFC is applying for funding towards the costs of planning permission of their new ground. It is a condition within the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants that projects requiring planning permission have this in place before applying to the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined and that the club applies again once planning permission for the project has been granted.

Cre8 Macclesfield -

Total Cost of Project - £3,608 Amount Requested - £2,798

Cre8 Macclesfield wishes to install sustainable energy solutions to provide free power and make the building more sustainable. They also require funding to fit a wood-burning stove to provide heating. They will be contributing themselves but do not have funding from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500 and seek funding specifically for energy efficiency.

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 and ensure the safe back up of their data. Up to date IT will enable the group to be more efficient and cost effective. The current server is based on cassette tape storage and without an upgrade the group risk losing important data essential for proving their service. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,545.

Macclesfield Community Partnership -

Total Cost of Project - £2,966 Amount Requested - £2,666

Macclesfield Community Partnership has the opportunity to relocate the youth club to a mobile building. The building needs refurbishing in order to be fit for purpose. Funding is required for barrier gates to secure the building for the club and towards storage, games

and DVDs. the project is supported, partnership working is taking place, with large benefits to the young people. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,666.

OCEAN -

Total Cost of Project - Not specified Amount Requested – Not Specified

OCEAN has applied for funding towards the running of their office. The application form is incomplete. The group have been contacted for amends and further information but none have been received. The Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants states that running costs cannot be funded by the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

RedShift Radio -

Total Cost of Project - £4,010 Amount Requested - £2,910

RedShift Radio requires funding to improve their office space, allowing them to offer meeting room space to the local community and to equip a second studio. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,780 towards the meeting room and studio equipment.

Rode Heath Village Hall -

Total Cost of Project - £2,050 Amount Requested - £1,000

Rode Heath Village Hall requires funding to replace the internal doors of the hall that have been in place since 1925. This will improve security and meet health & safety regulations. They have a contribution from the Parish Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

South West Cheshire Scout Network -

Total Cost of Project - £940 Amount Requested - £690

South West Cheshire Scout Network is requesting funding towards basic camping equipment which will enable the group to attend more camps/fundraising activities throughout the year. As this is a relatively new group, they have no reserves. They do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £690 and seek assistance from Crewe/Nantwich Town Council to cover the remaining costs of the project.

Wild Rumpus CIC -

Total Cost of Project - £10,250 Amount Requested - £2,800

Wild Rumpus requires funding to install mains electricity to their outdoor arts venue. This will reduce the reliance on hiring generators and increase their long term sustainability. They are contributing themselves and have contributions from elsewhere; it is recommended that they are awarded £2,800.

Wykeham Chase Sheltered Housing Scheme -

Total Cost of Project - £6,100 Amount Requested - £3,000

Wykeham Chase Sheltered Housing Scheme requires funding to create an outdoor recreational space for older people who have varying extra needs. The scheme is part of a large national Housing Scheme and does have a large amount of reserves. It is recommended that the application is declined.

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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