

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Outcomes

Date of Meeting: 21st July 2014
Report of: Principal Manager, Local Area Working
Subject/Title: Allocation of Community 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 2014/15 and makes recommendations totalling £53,613 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:

War Memorial Commemoration Events

Chelford Tenants & Residents Association	Awarded £700
Disley Parish Council	Awarded £1,000
Knutsford Heritage Centre	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Community Artspace	Awarded £700
Macclesfield War Graves	Awarded £1,000
Nantwich Choral Society	Awarded £1,000
Red Shift Radio	Awarded £500
St David's Church, Wettenhall	Awarded £150

Activities

1 st Holmes Chapel Guides	Awarded £510
Alsager Gardens Association	Awarded £350
Audlem Community Projects	Awarded £300
Brereton Parish Community Interest Group	Awarded £353
Cheshire Streetwise	Declined
Community Spirit	Awarded £1,000
Congleton Musical Theatre	Awarded £1,000
Cranberry Play Group	Declined
Crewe Clean Team	Awarded £400
Crewe Flyers	Declined
Disley Parish Plan Community Choir	Awarded £800
Macclesfield Art Group	Awarded £350

Macclesfield Community Artspace	Awarded £1,000
Must See Musicals	Awarded £1,000
Open Door Project – Haslington Methodist Church	Awarded £1,000
Open Space, Congleton Creates	Awarded £1,000
Poynton U3A	Awarded £400

Facilities

Audlem Public Hall Management Committee	Awarded £4,500
Langley Cricket Club	Awarded £3,700
New Life Church	Awarded £5,000
North Street Methodist Community Church	Awarded £5,000
Peckforton & Beeston Village Hall	Deferred
Prestbury Village Lawn Tennis Club	Awarded £2,000
Prestbury Village Playground Appeal	Awarded £5,000
Shavington Youth Club	Awarded £4,900
Styal Village Community Store and Cafe	Awarded £5,000
The Team Chongi Academy	Awarded £3,000
Visyon	Declined

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 War Memorial Commemoration Events:

Chelford Tenants and Residents Association -

Total Cost of Project - £1,542 Amount Requested - £700

Chelford Tenants and Residents Association will be holding an event called 'War Years Remembered' with a band, war time food, prizes for best dressed and lots more. They require funding towards the hire of the band and hire of equipment for catering and costumes. It is recommended that they are awarded £700.

Disley Parish Council -

Total Cost of Project - £3,950 Amount Requested - £1,000

Disley Parish Council is holding a remembrance parade and special service in commemoration of the First World War. Funding is required towards band fees, a PA system, gazebos and various other costs. The Parish Council will be covering the remaining costs of the event. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Knutsford Heritage Centre -

Total Cost of Project - £7,195 Amount Requested - £1,000

Knutsford Heritage Centre is planning a First World War commemorative exhibition that will run for 4 months. The exhibition will include workshops, outreach activity to retirement groups and care homes and schools. Funding is required for display boards and marketing/advertisement. They are contributing themselves and have lots of in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield Community Artspace -

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

Macclesfield Community Artspace requires funding towards a tutor/session leader, art materials and advertisement for a First World War themed display/exhibition called 'Hidden Loss'. Part of the project costs include transport and venue hire, which unfortunately cannot be funded by the scheme. It is recommended that they are awarded £700.

Macclesfield War Graves -**Total Cost of Project - £9,109 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Macclesfield War Graves are working with local schools, volunteers and local organisations and businesses to hold a commemorative event on 11th November. This is a large project which also involves tending to war graves and of creation of wreaths. Funding is required towards the printing, marketing and publicity for the event. Contributions are being made towards the project by the group themselves and other funding has been applied for. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Nantwich Choral Society -**Total Cost of Project - £8,500 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Nantwich Choral Society requires funding towards the marketing and publicity of their performance 'The Peacemakers' which is an event to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. The group are working with local churches and councils. They are contributing to the event costs themselves and have support from the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Red Shift Radio -**Total Cost of Project - £5,100 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Red Shift radio is holding a 'Big Day Out' in partnership with St Mary's Church and Wulvern Housing. The event is due to take place on 2nd August and elements are related to the commemoration of the First World War. Funding was requested to fund the attendance of British Legion Members at the event. The group are contributing themselves, as well as the other partners. As outings/day trips cannot be funded by the scheme, it is recommended that they group are awarded £500 towards the production of a Centenary Timeline which will be produced after the event.

St David's Church, Wettenhall -**Total Cost of Project - £950 Amount Requested - £250**

St David's Church will be holding a commemoration lunch after a First World War commemoration service and have requested funding towards the printing of leaflets, food and tableware and flowers for the church. As refreshments cannot be funded, it is recommended that they are awarded £150 towards the printing of leaflets and the tableware/flowers.

Activities:**1st Holmes Chapel Guides-****Total Cost of Project - £850 Amount Requested - £510**

1st Holmes Chapel Guides require funding to purchase camping equipment to enhance the opportunities available to the guides. The group is contributing towards the project themselves but have little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £510 and that they approach the Parish Council for assistance to avoid depleting their reserves.

Alsager Gardens Association-**Total Cost of Project - £1,350 Amount Requested - £400**

Alsager Gardens Association is holding an annual show and requires funding towards advertising and printing costs and bouquets for guests. They are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 for printing and advertising.

Audlem Community Projects-**Total Cost of Project - £300 Amount Requested - £300**

Audlem Community Projects require funding to install TV screens into public places to keep the local community informed of community events, meetings, etc. This will particularly benefit those without internet access. The group have very little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £300.

Brereton Parish Community Interest Group-**Total Cost of Project - £833 Amount Requested - £353**

Brereton Parish Community Interest Group are producing a parish walks leaflet, encouraging residents to find out more about Brereton and keep active through walking. Funding is required towards the printing of the leaflet. They are contributing towards the project themselves and have in kind donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £353.

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

Cheshire Streetwise submitted two applications, one for an art attack project and another for equipment for a skills cafe. It was not specified which application they wished to take forward. The organisation has not indicated that they have or submitted a constitution document, which is a requirement of the scheme. They have also not stated that safeguarding or equalities policies are in place. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Community Spirit-**Total Cost of Project - £2,750 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Community Spirit is holding an annual fun day and requires funding towards equipment hire such as a climbing wall, inflatables and a creepy crawly workshop. The group will be contributing towards the event themselves and have funding from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Congleton Musical Theatre-**Total Cost of Project - £19,550 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Congleton Musical Theatre is producing an annual show, 'Anything Goes', and requires funding towards the hire of stage lighting and the sound system. The group are contributing to the show themselves and have other contributions/donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Cranberry Play Group -**Total Cost of Project - £600 Amount Requested - £500**

Cranberry Play Group is requesting funding for additional toys and equipment. The organisation has not indicated that they have or submitted a constitution document, which is a requirement of the scheme. They have also not stated that safeguarding or equalities policies are in place. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Crewe Clean Team -**Total Cost of Project - £624 Amount Requested - £524**

Crewe Clean Team require funding to purchase additional litter picking equipment due to a large increase in members over the past year and an increased involvement with other organisations such as the Scouts, Bentley Motors and McDonalds. The group have little reserves but are contributing themselves. It is recommended that they seek assistance from the Town Council and that they are awarded £400.

Crewe Flyers -**Total Cost of Project - £750 Amount Requested - £500**

Crewe Flyers are applying for funding to put three young swimmers through teaching courses, which will offer more support to the club. Crewe Flyers received a grant in January 2012 and have not submitted any of the required monitoring information. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Disley Parish Plan Community Choir -**Total Cost of Project - £2,100 Amount Requested - £800**

Disley Parish Plan Community Choir is a new element of the Parish Plan Implementation group and they require funding for sheet music, music folders and funding towards a music director. Most of the costs will be covered by weekly donations from choir members. The group have no reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £800 but also seek assistance from the Parish Council for further support.

Macclesfield Art Group -**Total Cost of Project - £634 Amount Requested - £634**

Macclesfield Art Group originally applied for funding to cover their printing costs and banners. This is what they received funding for within the last financial year. They have therefore submitted further information to explain other costs that they have which include display boards, stationery and holding demonstrations. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 towards their demonstration costs.

Macclesfield Community Artspace -**Total Cost of Project - £3,216 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Macclesfield Community Artspace intends to run open drop in sessions where people can come along and join in various ongoing arts activities. Funding is required towards materials and training/coaching. They are contributing towards the project themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Must See Musicals -**Total Cost of Project - £7,220 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Must See Musicals have requested funding for the purchase of sound equipment to reduce repeated costs of hiring the equipment for each production. They are contributing themselves and have contributions from elsewhere. Funding was awarded in 2013 for the purchase of sound and lighting equipment, as repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 but towards other project costs outlined in the application such as advertising, costumes, bulbs etc.

Open Door Project – Haslington Methodist Church -**Total Cost of Project - £3,042 Amount Requested - £1,000**

With constant changes to benefits and government legislations, the Open Door project require funding for training costs to ensure that advisers can offer the most relevant information to the community. The group will be contributing themselves and have contributions from other organisations such as Waitrose. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Open Space, Congleton Creates -**Total Cost of Project - £3,200 Amount Requested - £1,000**

Open Space is a large arts festival taking place at the end of September. Funding is required towards the publicity of the event to involve as many members of the community as possible and towards stationery and art materials. The group will be contributing themselves and also have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Poynton U3A -**Total Cost of Project - £800 Amount Requested - £400**

Poynton U3A is holding an event to celebrate Older People's Day. Funding is required towards leaflets, posters and other advertisements. The U3A will be funding the remainder of the event. It is recommended that they are awarded £400.

Facilities:**Audlem Public Hall Management Committee -****Total Cost of Project - £7,550 Amount Requested - £5,000**

Audlem Public Hall Management Committee requires funding to replace old and dangerous stage boards, also creating a storage area for theatre groups. This will make the hall more user friendly. The group will be contributing the remaining project costs. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,500 and seek support from the Parish Council.

Langley Cricket Club -**Total Cost of Project - £5,800 Amount Requested - £4,200**

Langley Cricket Club would like to open up the ground for general access for sporting and recreational activity. To do this, they require funding to replace uneven pathway and for the installation of a pedestrian gate and replacement fence. The cricket club have contributions from elsewhere as well as from their own funds. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,700.

New Life Church -**Total Cost of Project - £10,350 Amount Requested - £5,000**

New Life Church is carrying out 4 projects to improve and maintain their building. These include replacing broken fencing, replacing old leaking guttering, new flooring within the pre-school as current flooring is now rising and becoming unsafe and an additional room divider to maximise the use of the space at the centre and offer more activities to the community.

The church will be contributing to these projects from their own funds and have other grant funding that can be diverted towards this project. However, as the Church have just applied to WREN and Reaching Communities for funding towards an extension to their building, they are now limited in what they can apply to. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

North Street Methodist Community Church -**Total Cost of Project - £30,000 Amount Requested - £5,000**

North Street Methodist Community Church is a new church community centre being built in Crewe. The church want to create a community hub type venue offering lots of services and need funding to furnish and fully equip the centre. The Church has been working with CE and other local organisations to develop this venue for community purpose. This is a large project with grants being received from elsewhere as well as large contribution from the church. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Peckforton & Beeston Village Hall -**Total Cost of Project - £3,000 Amount Requested – Not specified**

Peckforton & Beeston Village Hall require funding to improve access to the hall for disabled residents. The steps have now become hazardous and groups are starting to use alternative facilities. It is not stated in the form how much funding the Hall requires from Cheshire East or what (if any) contributions are being made from elsewhere. It is recommended that the application is deferred to September pending the completion of the form.

Prestbury Village Lawn Tennis Club -**Total Cost of Project - £3,200 Amount Requested – £2,700**

Prestbury Village Lawn Tennis Club is requesting funding for a new storage shed for junior equipment. A larger space is needed due to the increased number of junior activities and equipment. The group are making a small contribution themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and seek assistance from the Parish Council.

Prestbury Village Playground Appeal -**Total Cost of Project - £56,770 Amount Requested – £5,000**

Prestbury Village Playground Appeal are raising funds to create a new playground area, replacing the old area which is beyond repair. This is a large project with the main contribution coming from the Parish Council. Applications have been made elsewhere and the group has its own fundraising money. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Shavington Youth Club -**Total Cost of Project - £6,400 Amount Requested – £4,900**

Shavington Youth Club are applying for funding to replace their outdated kitchen, which is becoming unsafe and to fit a false ceiling in the sports hall to improve acoustics and attract more users by becoming much more user friendly. The group are contributing themselves, and have a contribution from the parish council. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,900.

Styal Village Community Store & Cafe -**Total Cost of Project - £45,000 Amount Requested – £5,000**

Earlams is a non profit making community shop, cafe and arts and crafts centre. Funding is being requested for fittings within the shop and arts and crafts centre. This is a large project with funding also being requested from the Parish Council and Big Lottery. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

The Team Chongi Academy -**Total Cost of Project - £9,010 Amount Requested – £3,000**

Team Chongi are operating at full capacity and have a large waiting list for classes. In order to expand the club and offer more services, they wish to convert the currently void cellar space into additional gym space. This will greatly benefit existing members, as well as attract new members. The application was deferred from April 2014 pending further information upon the organisation project costs and bank account, which has now been received. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 on the condition of securing funding for the remainder of the project.

Visyon -**Total Cost of Project - £4,000 Amount Requested – £1,000**

Visyon are requesting funding for the improvement of their IT equipment and additional equipment in new bases. Visyon were awarded a grant in May 2013, the project for which is still on-going. It is recommended that the application is declined and that they apply again once the previous grant and monitoring information is complete.

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 2014/15

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 2014/15. This Policy deals with the allocation of community grants which are awarded to defined Organisations following an application process and against 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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