

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Outcomes

Date of Meeting:	9 th February 2015
Report of:	Partnerships & Communities Team 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 final round of grants for 2014/15 and makes recommendations totalling £62,879 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of Grants. This will see £193,015 worth of projects take place throughout the area.

If this final round of recommendations is approved it will bring the total number of community groups benefitting from financial support for their projects and activities to 129, with a total of £225,471 awarded. These 129 voluntary and community groups contribute to health and wellbeing, supporting older people, provide debt advice and many more social benefits.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

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

First World War Commemoration Events

Hough and Chorlton Parish Council	Awarded £1,000
Valley CAP	Declined

Activities

Area 51 Fitness	Declined
Audlem Lass Boat Service	Awarded £815
Bollington Arts Centre	Awarded £750
Bollington Brass Band	Awarded £1,000
Canute Badminton Club	Awarded £800
Congleton Harriers	Conditionally awarded £250

Coppenhall Methodist Bowling Green Club	Awarded £400
Creative Crewe	Awarded £750
Crewe FC	Awarded £500
Crewe Male Voice Choir	Awarded £401
East Cheshire Mental Health Forum	Declined
East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club	Awarded £750
Egerton Youth Zone	Conditionally awarded £828
Lifeline Debt Advice	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Community Partnership	Deferred
Shavington Village Festival Committee	Awarded £250
The Barnby Choir	Awarded £300
The Craft Shed	Awarded £800

Facilities

17 th South West Cheshire Scout Group	Awarded £2,700
Bollington Initiative Trust	Deferred
Bunbury Village Hall	Awarded £450
Chelford Parish Plan Team	Awarded £3,000
Christ Church, Alsager	Declined
Crewe and Nantwich Gymnastics and Community Activities Association	Awarded £3,500
Good Champions Bowling Club	Awarded £5,000
Goodwill Hall Management Committee	Awarded £3,500
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre	Deferred
Knutsford Tennis Club	Awarded £3,500
Nantwich Museum	Awarded £4,000
New Testament Church of God, Crewe	Awarded £4,000
Rode Park & Lawton Cricket Club	Awarded £3,500
Ruskin Park FC	Awarded £3,500
Shavington Club, Bowling Section	Awarded £2,750
Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters	Awarded £2,385
Ucan.tv	Awarded £2,500
Weston Cricket Club	Awarded £2,500
Wilmslow Guild	Awarded £1,500
Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club	Awarded £4,000

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 War Memorial Commemoration Events:

Hough & Chorlton Parish Council –

Project Cost £2,500 Requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

Hough and Chorlton Parish Council require funding towards a village event in commemoration of the First World War. This will include a picnic, stalls, bands etc. The Parish Council will be contributing and will have income from food sales and stall holders. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Valley CAP –**Project Cost £5,300****Requested £2,000****Declined**

Valley CAP is requesting funding to hold an event in commemoration of the battle of 'The Somme' including a short film, a musical evening and a community art exhibition. Unfortunately, a signed copy of the organisations constitution was not received, despite a reminder. It is recommended that they application is declined.

Activities:**Area 51 Fitness –****Project Cost £1,200****Requested £1,000****Declined**

Area 51 Fitness require funding towards new equipment to increase facilities offered in health and fitness at the centre for the community. A copy of the organisation constitution document was not submitted to support the application and the organisations bank account details were not included on the form. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Audlem Lass Boat Service –**Project Cost £1,895****Requested £815****Awarded £815**

Audlem Lass Boat Service require funding to replace worn signage, cushions and towards general refurbishment of the boat for the new season. The group are contributing themselves despite little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £815.

Bollington Arts Centre –**Project Cost £2,000****Requested £1,250****Awarded £750**

Bollington Arts Centre requires funding for a new website to improve the profile of events, accept online payments and promote bookings. The group originally applied under the facilities category, but fits under the activities category. The group are contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and apply to the Town Council also.

Bollington Brass Band –**Project Cost £7,535****Requested £7,500****Awarded £1,000**

Bollington Brass Band requires funding towards instruments, sheet music and uniforms. The original application was made under the Giveback scheme and the group were requesting more than what can be awarded under the community grant scheme. They are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that they can secure further funding for the remaining costs.

Canute Badminton Club –**Project Cost £1,261****Requested £1,000****Awarded £800**

Canute Badminton Club requires funding to continue to expand the junior section. Costs include shuttlecocks and training for level 2 coaches. The club have funding from the Town Council and have little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £800 and fundraise or seek the remaining project costs from other sources.

Congleton Harriers –**Project Cost £2,280****Requested £250****Conditionally****awarded £250**

Congleton Harriers are holding the 'Cloud 9 Hill Race' and require funding towards various costs such as printing, promotion, cups and equipment hire. There are small contributions from elsewhere and the full project costs can potentially be covered by entry fees. It is recommended that they are awarded £250 if the amount received in entry fees does not cover the full project costs. If full costs are received through entry fees the organisation will not be eligible to claim the grant.

Coppenhall Methodist Bowling Green Club –**Project Cost £614****Requested £539****Awarded £400**

Coppenhall Methodist Bowling Green Club requires funding towards providing seating adjacent to the Boules court for members who are less mobile. The club have little reserves and are not contributing but do have volunteer time. It is recommended that they are awarded £400 and apply to the Town Council for remaining project costs.

Creative Crewe –**Project Cost £1,900****Requested £1,000****Awarded £750**

Creative Crewe is applying for funding towards marquee hire, posters, flyers and advertising and expenses for their summer fun day. The group are not contributing themselves but have little reserves and have a contribution from the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 towards equipment costs and fundraise or seek alternative funding for the remaining project costs of expenses.

Crewe FC –**Project Cost £1,000****Requested £650****Awarded £500**

Crewe FC requires funding towards training for coaches to retain and upgrade charter standard status and to set up new junior teams, along with improving coaching standards. The club will be contributing themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and approach the Town Council for the remaining project costs.

Crewe Male Voice Choir –**Project Cost £726****Requested £401****Awarded £401**

Crewe Male Voice Choir requires funding to arrange a concert and costs include a soloist, programmes, ticket printing and a pianist. The group aims to cover some costs through ticket sales and have a contribution from another source. It is recommended that they are awarded £401.

East Cheshire Mental Health Forum –**Project Cost £1,200****Requested £460****Declined**

East Cheshire Mental Health Forum is requesting funding for administration costs which unfortunately cannot be funded by the scheme. A signed copy of their constitution was not received. It is recommended that the application is declined.

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club –**Project Cost £1,549****Requested £1,000****Awarded £750**

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club requires funding for replacement equipment to fully equip the boat with essential safety equipment for sea diving expeditions. The club will be contributing to the project themselves but do not have any contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they seek support from other funding sources towards the remaining project costs.

Egerton Youth Zone –**Project Cost £1,328****Requested £828****Awarded £828**

Egerton Youth Zone is a new organisation and requires funding for equipment to increase the range of activities available for the children and young people. Equipment includes a TV, dvd player, seating, air hockey and table football. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £828 on the condition that their bank account set up is finalised with two signatories.

Lifeline Debt Advice –**Project Cost £5,000****Requested £1,500****Awarded £1,000**

Lifeline Debt Advice requires funding for training of advisers, replacement of information leaflets, use of a new computer system and training for volunteers following new requirements set up by a new regulator. The group are contributing themselves but have very little reserves and have donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield Community Partnership –**Project Cost £800****Requested £500****Deferred**

Macclesfield Community Partnership is requesting funding towards the costs of their monthly lunch club, A breakdown of costs has not been provided. As the organisation is currently finalising a previous community grant awarded, it is recommended that the application is deferred to April.

Shavington Village Fete Committee –**Project Cost £13,850****Requested £250****Awarded £250**

Shavington Village Festival Committee is holding an annual pantomime and require funding towards sound and lighting costs. The group are contributing themselves and have income from ticket sales as well as sponsorship for the programme. It is recommended that they are awarded £250.

The Barnby Choir –**Project Cost £1,006****Requested £300****Awarded £300**

The Barnby Choir is requesting funding towards a summer concert. Costs include hire of music, advertising, programmes, tickets and an accompanist. The group are contributing themselves and will have income from ticket sales. It is recommended that they are awarded £300.

The Craft Shed –**Project Cost £1,315****Requested £1,000****Awarded £800**

The Craft Shed require funding to develop arts and wellbeing courses for those with mental health issues with an aim of improving self esteem, confidence and raising mood. Costs of the project include venue hire and co-ordinator costs which cannot be funded by the scheme. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £800.

Facilities:**17th South West Cheshire Scout Group –****Project Cost £4,385****Requested £3,385****Awarded £2,700**

17th South West Cheshire Scout Group is applying for funding for equipment to improve the facilities offered by the group. The group wish to purchase a hardship kit of essential outdoor clothing and camping equipment which can be loaned to parents on a low income, allowing all to participate. Other costs include the replacement of tables which are heavy wood with new lightweight tables and projection equipment for film screening fundraising activities. The group are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,700 towards the kit and tables and that an application is submitted for an activities grant in the new financial year for the projection equipment.

Bollington Initiative Trust –**Project Cost £340,000****Requested £5,000****Deferred**

Bollington Initiative Trust requires funding to restore and refurbish a former secondary school which has recently been transferred from Cheshire East. This is a large project with a lot of grant funding from other sources and a large contribution from the organisation but it is recommended that the application is deferred to April pending further information on the use of the building and the conditions of the transfer from Cheshire East.

Bunbury Village Hall –**Project Cost £1,015****Requested £743****Awarded £450**

Bunbury Village Hall requires funding for the redecoration of the hall which will make it more attractive for users and attract new users. The group are contributing themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £450 and that they seek contributions from other sources such as the Parish Council.

Chelford Parish Plan Team –**Project Cost £5,381****Requested £5,000****Awarded £3,000**

Chelford Parish Plan Team requires funding for the enhancement of Mere Court recreation and play area. Costs include benches, signage refurbishment of fences and clearing of shrubs. The group will be making a small contribution themselves but have no contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 and seek contributions from other funding sources.

Christ Church, Alsager –**Project Cost £28,000****Requested £5,000****Declined**

Christ Church Alsager is in phase 3 of their facility refurbishment project and requires funding for equipment. The Church applied for and was successful in receiving a CE Giveback grant in November 2014. This application is to fund the remaining items not funded by the Giveback grant. As the Church has received a substantial amount of funding from CE already towards the same project, it is recommended that the application is declined and that the church seeks funding from other sources.

Crewe and Nantwich Gymnastics and Community Activities Association –**Project Cost £5,974****Requested £5,000****Awarded £3,500**

Crewe and Nantwich Gymnastics Club require funding to replace equipment and wish to purchase a landing mat, trampette and adjustable rings. The club have sponsorship from an event being held in February but have not indicated that they will be contributing themselves, despite large reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 and that they contribute towards the equipment or seek alternative funding.

Good Champions Bowling Club –**Project Cost £41,750****Requested £5,000****Awarded £5,000**

Good Champions Bowling Club is requesting funding towards the rebuilding of the club pavilion. This project has been ongoing for many years and funding is required to allow the project to move forward. The club have made a large contribution to this project and have gained grants from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

Goodwill Hall Management Committee –**Project Cost £5,491****Requested £5,000****Awarded £3,500**

Goodwill Hall is requesting funding for final improvements to the hall such as new curtains, lighting, corridor improvements and a hearing loop. The Hall will be contributing but not applying elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 and seek contributions from other sources.

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre –**Project Cost £7,900****Requested £5,000****Deferred**

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre requires funding to create a volunteer programme and costs include recording equipment, microphones and software as well as gardening equipment. The bank account, constitution and policies have come from the University of Manchester. We require further information on the organisations accounts in order to further assess the application. It is recommended that the application is deferred to April pending the receipt of this information.

Knutsford Tennis Club –**Project Cost £9,508****Requested £5,000****Awarded £3,500**

Knutsford Tennis Club is requesting funding towards repairing the playing surface of two tennis courts used for junior use. The club will be contributing themselves and do have large reserves but have not got support from

elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 and seek support from other funding organisations.

Nantwich Museum –

Project Cost £12,434

Requested £4,000

Awarded £4,000

Nantwich Museum will be applying to WREN for a sustainability and environmental project which involves replacing current halogen bulbs in the museum with new LED lighting. The current lighting is proving expensive and produces heat which could potentially ruin exhibitions/artefacts. They will be making a small contribution themselves despite operating at a loss, applying to WREN and the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,000 subject to the receipt of WREN funding.

New Testament Church of God, Crewe –

Project Cost £8,400

Requested £5,000

Awarded £4,000

New Testament Church of God is requesting funding to refurbish existing internal toilet facilities to benefit all users of the facility as well as anticipated users. The church will be contributing but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,000 and apply to other funding sources.

Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club –

Project Cost £12,346

Requested £5,000

Awarded £3,500

Rode Park and Lawton Cricket Club requires funding towards the replacement of their scoreboard with a new remote controlled electronic board and extended score box. This project is part of the club's long term development plan to maintain membership and attract new members. The project has a lot of support from junior members. The club will be contributing themselves and are holding fundraising events but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 and apply to other funding sources.

Ruskin Park FC –

Project Cost £5,600

Requested £5,600

Awarded £3,500

Ruskin Park FC are requesting funding to obtain a storage container to allow training equipment to be stored safely and securely and allowing equipment to be stored fully constructed, reducing the need to transport them to and from the training facility. The club are not contributing to the project themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 towards the project on the condition that they are able to apply for and secure funding from other sources towards the remaining project costs.

Shavington Club, Bowling Section –

Project Cost £4,250

Requested £3,250

Awarded £2,750

Shavington Club, Bowling Section requires funding for the purchase of a new mowing machine for the bowling green. As the current machine is over 25 years old, it can no longer cut grass to standard. The group are contributing themselves despite little reserves. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,750 and that they also seek support from the Parish Council or other funding sources.

Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters –**Project Cost £2,785****Requested £2,385****Awarded £2,385**

Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters require funding to purchase benches, picnic tables and barbeque stands to enhance the existing canal side facilities for all users. The group are newly formed and have no reserves and the Parish Council will be contributing to the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,385.

Ucan.tv –**Project Cost £10,497****Requested £4,916****Awarded £2,500**

Ucan.tv is creating a digital audio and video production suite in partnership with Ohana Music. It is aimed that the suite will be used for a large range of purposes including creating music, film, presentations and community events. The technologies in the suite are not usually easily accessible to the community. The organisation is contributing to the project and they have secured preferential prices on some equipment. The application was deferred in October pending further information on the numbers of people benefitting from the project. Information has been submitted. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 on the condition that the remaining project costs are sought through applications to other funding organisations.

Weston Cricket Club –**Project Cost £5,000****Requested £3,500****Awarded £2,500**

Weston Cricket Club have increased membership but the current facilities are outdated and below expected standard. Improved toilet facilities will attract and retain more members and the club room can be hired out for community use. The Club are contributing to the project themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 and seek support from other sources.

Wilmslow Guild –**Project Cost £3,799****Requested £1,900****Awarded £1,500**

Wilmslow Guild are applying for funding to replace rotten window and door frames in their building which will enable the group to continue to provide educational and social activities from the building. The group does have a large amount of reserves but will be contributing half of the project costs. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500 and that the remaining costs are sought from the Town Council.

Wistaston Memorial Hall –**Project Cost £8,640****Requested £5,000****Awarded £4,000**

Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club require funding to install disabled toilet facilities at the bowling green as the current facilities are within the hall itself, meaning keys need to be obtained and then a round trip of over 200meters. This on site facility will be much more convenient and will also accommodate less able bodied members. The Club will be contributing themselves and will be applying to other organisations for any shortfall, it is recommended that they are awarded £4,000.

3.2 Decision regarding overpayment to Ashley Cricket Club:

Ashley Cricket Club was awarded £1,500 in April 2014 towards renovation of their square which was uneven, with a total project cost of £6,378. Unfortunately, due to an administration error, their offer letter was written stating that they were awarded £3,000 and they were subsequently paid this amount. A decision is required upon how to rectify this error and whether the club will be required to repay the additional money funded or whether they are able to keep the additional funding due to the error being no fault of their own and the project now being 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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