

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting: 27th April 2015
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
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 first round of grants for 2015/16 and makes recommendations totalling £32,981 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:

Activities

Alderley Edge May Fair	Awarded £1,000
Audlem Music & Arts Annual Festival	Awarded £1,000
Audlem Special Events Team	Awarded £1,000
Audlem Youth Club	Awarded £500
Autism Inclusive	Awarded £500
Bickerton Village Hall	Awarded £750
Carers Trust 4 All	Awarded £1,000
Cheshire Academy of Integrated Sport and the Arts	Awarded £750
Cheshire East ABC	Awarded £750
C M Vision	Awarded £750
Community Spirit	Awarded £750
Congleton Choral Society	Awarded £750
CYGNETS	Awarded £1,000
Family History Society - Crewe	Declined
Friends of Congleton Park	Awarded £500
Macclesfield Academy Learning Community	Deferred
Macclesfield and District Sheep Dog Trials Association	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Community Partnership	Declined
Mobility and Access Group	Deferred
Nantwich Choral Society	Awarded £750
One World 2015	Awarded £800

Sandbach Ceilidhs	Awarded £451
Sandbach Voices	Awarded £500
SOL Theatre School	Awarded £1,000
Team Congleton Ltd	Awarded £1,000
The Alderley Edge Orchestra	Awarded £350
The Lindow Singers	Awarded £400
The Sandstone Ridge Trust	Awarded £500
Wheelock Holiday Club	Awarded £130
Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society	Awarded £350
Wybunbury World War One Community Group	Declined

Facilities

Bollington Community Centre	Awarded £3,500
Bollington Initiative Trust	Declined
Bunbury Playground Committee	Declined
Croft Village Memorial Hall	Declined
Disley Cricket Club	Awarded £2,500
Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre	Declined
Nantwich Methodist Church	Awarded £750
Over Water Wheely Boat Project	Awarded £3,500
Pott Shrigley Cricket Club	Awarded £750
Sandbach Gymnastics Supporters	Awarded £2,000
St John's Pre School	Declined
St Stephen's Methodist Church	Awarded £1,750

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1

Activities:

Alderley Edge May Fair

Total project cost £10,800	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Alderley Edge May Fair is an annual event which aims to encourage goodwill and involvement in the wider community to develop community spirit. Funding is required to provide additional entertainment. Other costs include marquees, toilets, entertainers etc. The group are contributing to the event and have funding from elsewhere, as well as income coming from stall fees. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that the total project costs are not achieved through other grant applied for and stall fees.

Audlem Music and Arts Annual Festival

Total project cost £15,500	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Audlem Music and Arts Annual Festival require funding towards holding their annual event. Costs include a PA and sound system, marquees and hire of performers. This event is open to all residents and tourists and boosts tourism in the village. The group will be contributing the majority of the costs themselves and they have got contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that the 'supported by Cheshire East' logo is displayed at the event.

Audlem Special Events Team

Total project cost £5,044	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Audlem Special Events Team requires funding towards holding a village transport festival which is a free event for local residents and visitors. Costs include children's entertainment, crowd barriers, programmes and advertising and signage. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions, it is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition that the 'supported by Cheshire East' logo is displayed at the event.

Audlem Youth Club

Total project cost £920	Amount requested £920	Amount awarded £500
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Audlem Youth Club is currently in the set up phase and requires funding for equipment to help them establish such as sports tables, arts and craft materials and outdoor summer equipment. The club are not contributing themselves to the equipment purchase but have very little reserves due to being newly established. They do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the Parish Council.

Autism Inclusive

Total project cost £1,539	Amount requested £864	Amount awarded £500
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Autism Inclusive is a new group in Crewe. They require funding to purchase equipment which will allow them to run a movie club which will be autism friendly. Most autism friendly screenings at local cinemas are aimed at children. Equipment includes a projector, screen and blackout blinds. The group are not contributing to the project, but do not have any reserves. They have a donation towards the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

Bickerton Village Hall

Total project cost £1,483	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Bickerton Village Hall is applying for funding to set up weekly art classes, which will be led by a qualified art teacher. The hall aims to offer new experiences to the community. There will be an adult art class and also a children's art class running after school. Funding is required towards starter packs for the children and for the art teacher to come into the hall for a 9 week period. The hall will be contributing towards the costs themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they also approach other funding sources, such as the local parish council for the remaining project costs.

Carers Trust 4 All

Total project cost £4,476	Amount requested £3,500	Amount awarded £1,000
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Carers Trust 4 All requires funding to increase the sensory equipment available at their 'Fun Club' which is run for children with disabilities. The application has been made under the facilities category. However, due to the type of equipment being purchased, it fits under the activities category. The group will be making a small contribution, despite large reserves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and apply to other funding sources.

Cheshire Academy of Integrated Sport and The Arts

Total project cost £3,600	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Cheshire Academy requires funding towards equipment for the set-up of a disabled adults activity club. Costs include multi activity equipment, flyers, premises hire and facilitator costs. The group are contributing towards the costs themselves and have donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

Cheshire East ABC

Total project cost £3,208	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Cheshire East ABC requires funding towards coach training due to the increased number of members at the gym. This will mean better facilities can be offered to members due to having properly trained coaches. The club will be contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750.

C M Vision

Total project cost £1,820	Amount requested £970	Amount awarded £750
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C M Vision is holding an afternoon tea dance event and requires funding for a band/singer and equipment such as trestle tables. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750.

Community Spirit

Total project cost £2,750	Amount requested £750	Amount awarded £750
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Community Spirit requires funding to hold a community fun day, costs include the hire of activities such as inflatables, creepy crawly workshops and 'fun bus'. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 on the condition that the 'supported by Cheshire East' logo is displayed at the event.

Congleton Choral Society

Total project cost £3,871	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Congleton Choral Society is taking part in a large concert in Congleton Town Hall and requires funding towards the support of professional musicians. The group will be making a contribution themselves and will have income from ticket sales. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

CYGNETS

Total project cost £7,409	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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CYGNETS are requesting funding towards putting on a large event to fill the gap brought by the Barnaby festival being bi-annual. Planned activities include circus skills, acting skills, dance sessions, street dance, cheerleading, samba drumming etc. Funding is required towards many of these activities as well as venue hire. The group will be contributing towards the costs and will have income from wrist bands being sold on the day, as well as other donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Family History Society - Crewe

Total project cost £652	Amount requested £568	Declined
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The group are creating a commemorative quilt in recognition of those that lost their lives in WW1. Funding is required towards the quilting and towards the production of a memorial book to accompany the quilt. Funding for WW1 commemoration events was available for the financial year of 2014/15 only and it is not felt that this will benefit wider community, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Friends of Congleton Park

Total project cost £3,000	Amount requested £500	Amount Awarded £500
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Friends of Congleton Park are holding an event entitled 'Brass on the Grass' which will be free for the community to attend. Funding is required towards a marquee, advertising, signage and bands. The group are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

Macclesfield Academy Learning Community

Total project cost £1,750	Amount requested £1,000	Deferred
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Macclesfield Academy Learning Community require funding to run a summer school for 1 week during the summer break with an aim of reducing anti-social behaviour on the estate, through the summer. Costs include music tutors and coach costs. A contribution is being made to the project but they have not applied elsewhere. Information on the organisation bank account is missing. It is recommended the application is deferred pending the receipt of missing information and clarification of whether service is already being commissioned.

Macclesfield and District Sheep Dog Trials Association

Total project cost £15,610	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £1,000
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This group will be holding the 2015 English National Sheepdog Trials competition which brings competitors from all over the country. Many other activities will also be taking place at the event which is open to the public with an aim of promoting farming and the rural community. This is a large event and the group will be contributing themselves and fundraising, there are also various contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield Community Partnership

Total cost not specified	Amount requested £500	Declined
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Macclesfield Community Partnership is requesting funding towards the costs of their monthly lunch club, A breakdown of costs has not been provided. The application was deferred from the January round of grants. As the previous grant awarded has not yet been finalised and as food costs cannot be funded, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Mobility and Access Group

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested not stated	Deferred
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Mobility and Access Group require funding for a computer, sewing equipment and for the initial set up costs of a luncheon club with an aim of helping the group to develop. Parts of the form are incomplete; it is not clear how much funding is required from Cheshire East. Bank account details have not been included on the form. It is recommended that the application is deferred to June pending the receipt of missing information.

Nantwich Choral Society

Total project cost £7,730	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £750
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Nantwich Choral Society requires funding towards the costs of hiring an orchestra and soloists for their concert which is being held jointly with a German Choir. The group will have income from ticket sales and have a contribution from Nantwich Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and that the remaining project costs come from the large reserves.

One World 2015

Total project cost £4,275	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £800
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One World is a festival that involves local residents that originate from other cultures and countries providing a unique insight to the community including national dishes, costumes and artefacts. Funding is required for posters, advertising and craft materials. The group are contributing themselves and have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £800 due to other costs being ineligible.

Sandbach Ceilidhs

Total project cost £1,355	Amount requested £451	Amount awarded £451
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Sandbach Ceilidhs require funding towards holding a 'Day of Dance' event, which brings Morris Dancing into the town centre. Eligible costs include advertising banners, publicity and band hire. The group are contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £451.

Sandbach Voices

Total project cost £1,450	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £500
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Sandbach Voices are holding a 'Come and Sing' day which invites local choirs and individuals to sing with them, resulting in a concert evening. Costs include advertising and professional musician fees. A grant was awarded for similar purposes last year. The group are contributing themselves but do not have any other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they approach other funders subject to the confirmation of bank account name.

SOL Theatre School

Total project cost £14,350	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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SOL Theatre School require funding to hire Daneside Theatre to provide a venue for performances by the children from the summer school. Funding is also required towards musical licences for the performance.

Unfortunately, venue hire cannot be funded by the scheme and a grant was awarded in 2014 for musical licences. Repeat funding cannot be granted.

The group will be contributing themselves and they do have contributions from elsewhere, it is therefore recommended that they are awarded £1,000 but towards other project costs such as advertising and printing or costumes.

Team Congleton Ltd

Total project cost £4,000	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Team Congleton require funding towards their 'Every Step Counts' programme. Whilst the programme is to encourage the whole community to partake in more walking activities, this application is requesting funding specifically to engage with school age children by providing incentives such as pedometers and through marketing materials. The group have contributions from elsewhere and have very little reserves; it is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

The Alderley Edge Orchestra

Total project cost £3,800	Amount requested £350	Amount awarded £350
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The Alderley Edge Orchestra requires funding towards professional conductors and soloists for their concerts. The group will have income from ticket sales and grants from other sources. A grant was awarded in 2014 for the same purpose. As repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that they are awarded £350 towards other project costs of music hire and instruments.

The Lindow Singers

Total project cost £4,200	Amount requested £400	Amount awarded £400
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The Lindow Singers require funding towards the cost of music hire, choir and orchestra for their 2015 concerts. The group are contributing themselves and will have income from ticket sales. It is recommended that they are awarded £400 subject to the receipt of their constitution document.

The Sandstone Ridge Trust

Total project cost £3,812	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £500
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The Sandstone Ridge Trust require funding for the purchase of specialist equipment to enable their volunteers to survey, measure and record ancient trees throughout the Cheshire East area that borders Sandstone Ridge. It is hoped that with this equipment, more volunteers will become involved which will generate more community activity. The group will be contributing themselves and have applied to other sources. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 as a contribution and that they contribute the rest from their large reserves.

Wheelock Holiday Club

Total project cost £631	Amount requested £130	Amount awarded £130
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Wheelock Holiday Club is applying for funding towards the purchase of a hand held microphone to enhance drama and singing activities. The group will be contributing themselves and have other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £130.

Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society

Total project cost £2,281	Amount requested £350	Amount awarded £350
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Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra requires funding towards the cost of music hire for a concert taking place in June. The group will have income from ticket sales and will have donations from the night. It is recommended that they are awarded £350.

Wybunbury World War One Community Group

Total project cost £1,650	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Wybunbury WW1 Community Group have established to research and honour the men of the village and surrounding areas who gave their lives in the First World War. The group aim to print a book which will be given to the leavers of the local primary school each year during the commemoration period. Funding is required for research and printing costs. Funding for WW1 commemoration events was available for the financial year of 2014/15 only and as the books will only be for the benefit of the school leavers and not the wider community, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Facilities:**Bollington Community Centre**

Total project cost £20,000	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £3,500
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Bollington Community Centre requires funding for a kitchen refurbishment, particularly the flooring, which is old and in poor condition. They also aim to install energy efficient lighting, additional cupboards, work tables and a new dishwasher. Funding from CE will be used as 3rd party funding for an application to WREN. The group will be making a contribution as well as applying to other sources for the remaining project cost. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 subject to the confirmation of WREN funding.

Bollington Initiative Trust

Total project cost £340,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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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. The application was deferred from the January. When taking on the asset, the organisation also took on accountability for the future development of the building, including funds for renovation. When transferring assets from the Council we need to ensure that they are cost neutral to the authority, and indeed the tax payer, and therefore it is recommended that the application is declined.

Bunbury Playground Committee

Total project cost £237,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Bunbury Playground Committee is requesting a grant towards the payment of professional fees in relation to their large project to refurbish and improve the local play area. A substantial amount of funding was awarded from Cheshire East in 2014 for the same project, including a £3,000 community grant, for which monitoring information has not yet been received. As repeat funding cannot be granted, it is recommended that the application is declined.

Croft Village Memorial Hall

Total project cost £9,336	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Croft Village Memorial Hall is based in Warrington and is therefore ineligible for funding through the community grants scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Disley Cricket Club

Total project cost £5,760	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £2,500
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Disley Cricket Club requires funding for the purchase of new sightscreens following a promotion to division 1 of the Cheshire Cricket League. The club are making a small contribution themselves and have a small contribution from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 and that the remaining project costs are sought from alternative sources of fundraising.

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

Total project cost £6,540	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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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 application was deferred from January pending information on the relationship of the centre to the University of Manchester. Although Jodrell Bank operates as a separate not for profit organisation to the university, the bank account is that of the university. They will be contributing to the project themselves but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that the application is declined due to the relationship with the overarching organisation of the University of Manchester. The community grant scheme is aimed at supporting small scale projects for organisations that have limited access to funding. It is recommended that a 'Friends of' group is set up for local community projects at Jodrell bank, with its own bank account and constitution where clear local benefits can be demonstrated.

Nantwich Methodist Church

Total project cost £1,500	Amount requested £1,500	Amount awarded £750
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Nantwich Methodist Church requires funding for the resurfacing of the floor in the main hall which is used by many groups for community and social activities. The Church are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 and seek support from other organisations or from their own reserves.

Over Water Wheely Boat Project

Total project cost £26,752	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £3,500
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Over Water Wheely Boat Project is a new project to provide opportunities for disabled adults and children to enjoy the canal in a purpose built boat. This is a large project with numerous grant applications being made to other organisations as well as support from the Wheely Boat Trust. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500.

Pott Shrigley Cricket Club

Total project cost £3,699	Amount requested £3,300	Amount awarded £750
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Pott Shrigley Cricket Club requires funding to install a disabled toilet to provide a facility that welcomes all members of the community also for tiling of the kitchen walls and floor to create a clean and presentable environment during cricket games and during events. The club have a donation but are not contributing themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £750 towards the costs of re-tiling the kitchen as unfortunately, disabled facilities where there is no proven need for the work to be carried out or where upgrading is required for an existing facility to meet the statutory requirements of the DDA cannot be funded.

Sandbach Gymnastics Supporters

Total project cost £7,146	Amount requested £5,000	Amount awarded £2,000
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Sandbach gymnastics supporters require funding to increase the facilities in the gym due to recent membership increases. New equipment will include a pit, foam cubes and safety matting. The group will be contributing towards the project themselves but they do not have any contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 and that they seek the remaining project costs from other funding sources such as the Town Council.

St John's Pre-School

Total project cost £4,577	Amount requested £4,577	Declined
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St John's Pre-School requires funding to fix the roof that currently leaks, resulting in damp and is becoming dangerous. The pre-school have not applied elsewhere and are not contributing towards the costs. Unfortunately, the community grant scheme is unable to support projects which are for the sole benefit of pupils of a school or college. As this will not benefit the wider community, it is recommended that the application is declined.

St Stephen's Methodist Church

Total project cost £7,320	Amount requested £2,000	Amount awarded £1,750
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St Stephen's Church kitchen is used by many groups and outreach activities but is now more than 50 years old and in need of refurbishment. The Church also requires repairs to the guttering of the church hall, due to experiencing leaks. The church hall is also used as a night shelter as well by uniformed groups and pre-schools. The church will be contributing to the project themselves and have a donation. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,750.

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

- 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

- 7.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2015/16

8.0 Legal Implications

- 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 2015/16. 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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