

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 26th October 2015
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
Subject/Title: Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor L Gilbert

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To determine the award of Community Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council. The Council recognises the valuable input that the Voluntary and Community Sector brings to the quality of life in the community. Funding is focussed on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The report covers the third round of grants for 2015/16 and makes recommendations totalling £40,789 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

Beartown Patchwork and Quilters	Awarded £100
Poynton Parish Plan Monitoring Group	Awarded £1,000
The Women's Community Forum	Declined

Activities

14 th Macclesfield, St John's Guides	Declined
Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Company	Awarded £1,000
Cheshire Schools Football Association	Awarded £150
Crewe Arabic Centre	Awarded £1,000
HIP in Cheshire	Awarded £350
Holmes Chapel Partnership	Declined
Knutsford Heritage Centre	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield Tennis Club	Declined

Facilities

1 st Alsager Scout Group	Deferred
1 st Goostrey Scout Group	Awarded £5,000
Aston and District Cricket Club	Awarded £2,000
Barnswood Management Committee	Awarded £1,000
Cheshire Streetwise CIC	Declined
Church Minshull Village Hall	Declined
EDGE Inclusion Partners	Declined
Egerton Youth Zone	Awarded £5,000

Elim Christian Life Centre	Awarded £3,500
Hurdsfield Community Group	Deferred
Just Drop In Youth Information and Advice	Awarded £940
Langley Cricket Club	Awarded £1,500
Reach Out and Recover	Awarded £5,000
Rode Heath Village Hall	Awarded £3,000
St Chad's Handforth	Awarded £3,500
Wilmslow Cricket Club	Awarded £1,800
Wrenbury Bowling Club	Awarded £3,949

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1

Events:

Beartown Patchwork and Quilters

Total project cost £1,637	Amount requested £100	Amount awarded £100
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Beartown Patchwork and Quilters are holding an exhibition of members work. Funding is required towards printing and publicity costs. The group are contributing the remainder of the project costs themselves. The application was deferred in the last round pending the receipt of bank account information and a safeguarding policy. This information has now been received and it is recommended that they are awarded £100.

Poynton Parish Plan Monitoring Group

Total project cost £4,960	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £1,000
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Poynton Christmas Fest is an annual open access street event which includes community carol singing, music, drama and dance performances. Costs of the event include stage hire, fireworks, street entertainers, advertising etc. The group are contributing towards the event, as well as the Town Council. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

The Women's Community Forum

Total project cost £1,200	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The Women's Community Forum is requesting funding for a festival taking place in Somerset in July 2016. The group would like to include young people from Cheshire East. Funding is required for artist fees. This event will not benefit the wider community within Cheshire East and a constitution document has not been received. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Activities:

14th Macclesfield, St John's Guides

Total project cost £2,942	Amount requested £770	Declined
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14th Macclesfield, St John's Guides completed a Cheshire East Giveback form for funding towards a coach for transportation to and from their activities weekend in January. The group have been informed that the Giveback fund is no longer open for applications and that the Community Grant scheme cannot fund transportation. The group were invited to apply for a Community Grant for different purposes. No replacement application received. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Company

Total project cost £33,126	Amount requested £1,000	Conditionally awarded £1,000
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Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Company require funding towards their production of 'Sister Act'. Specific costs include the set, wardrobe, sound, make up, scripts etc. The group have been fundraising towards the costs, will have income from ticket sales and have contributions from various other sources. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition of the receipt of monitoring information from the previous grant awarded and their equality policy.

Cheshire Schools Football Association

Total project cost £450	Amount requested £300	Awarded £150
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Cheshire Schools Football Association requires funding towards their inter-schools cup finals for the 2015/16 season. Costs include footballs, 1st aid kit, medals, match officials etc. The club will have income from ticket sales but are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £150 towards the project but that they also apply to other funding sources or contribute to the project.

Crewe Arabic Centre

Total project cost £4,030	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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Crewe Arabic Centre requires funding for the set-up of a Sunday school which will provide Arabic tuition to children aged 5 - 14. Costs include a laptop and printer, room hire (which is eligible as a new organisation), books, db's checks and insurance. As this is a new organisation, they do not have any reserves in order to contribute to the project but have applied to other funding sources to help support this and other projects coming up (such as art/music sessions, celebrating Eids and family trips). The group are also working with CVSCE. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

HIP in Cheshire

Total project cost £753	Amount requested £500	Awarded £350
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HIP in Cheshire require funding to offer an IT course for members with the intention of improving communication skills, particularly with members' families and friends. It is hoped that with new confidence in computing skills, members will feel less isolated and will gain more independence. The group are contributing to the project themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £350 and that they apply to other funding sources.

Holmes Chapel Partnership

Total project cost £7,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Holmes Chapel Partnership requires funding for their project which focuses on the bond between grandparents and grandchildren, having fun and improving their heart health. This is a structured fitness project, set out over a 6 month period; however the project is due to start before decisions are made within this grant round. Unfortunately, the Community Grant Scheme is unable to fund retrospectively. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Knutsford Heritage Centre

Total project cost £2,766	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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Knutsford Heritage Centre requires funding to develop and attain official museum status. The funding will be used towards collection management, to protect, preserve, store and display artefacts in accordance with accreditation protocol. The centre is contributing to the project as well as the town council. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition of implementing an equalities and diversity policy.

Macclesfield Tennis Club

Total project cost £1,200	Amount requested £600	Declined
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Macclesfield Tennis Club has applied for funding for the purchase of a defibrillator.

It is not felt that this project will generate community activity. Specific funds have been set up for the purchase of defibrillators, it is therefore recommended that the application is declined and that information on these funding streams are passed on.

Facilities:**1st Alsager Scout Group**

Total project cost £5,380	Amount requested £3,000	Deferred
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1st Alsager Scout Group requires funding to replace both the internal and external doors in the scout hall due to issues with the locks, a high threshold and weaknesses with the hinges. The club are contributing to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that the application is deferred to January pending further information on their future sustainability and wider community use of their building.

1st Goostrey Scout Group

Total project cost £257,536	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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1st Goostrey Scout Group is working in partnership with the parish council to build a new scout hut and youth centre on the site of the derelict youth centre in the village. This is a very large project and the group have raised a large amount of money towards this. Applications are also being made to other organisations, including the Parish Council and WREN. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 on the condition that other funding is secured as detailed in the application form.

Aston and District Cricket Club

Total project cost £3,300	Amount requested £3,300	Awarded £2,000
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Aston and District Cricket Club requires funding for replacement windows in the clubhouse. The current windows are decaying and do not keep the heat in which means the club cannot be used in winter. The club are not making a contribution to the project and do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000 towards the project on the condition that they apply to other funding sources for the remaining project costs.

Barnswood Management Committee

Total project cost £1,800	Amount requested £1,800	Awarded £1,000
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Barnswood Management Committee requires funding to re-roof one of the buildings at the scout camp which is currently leaking. The organisation has large reserves due to ongoing issues with diseased rhododendrons which are proving costly to solve. They have applied to other funding sources and if all applications are successful, they will have their total project costs. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

Cheshire Streetwise CIC

Total project cost £4,785	Amount requested £4,785	Declined
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Cheshire Streetwise is requesting funding for the establishment of an all-day skills café and job club at the Elim Christian Life Centre as part of the work taking place on Community hubs in the area. Cheshire Streetwise have already received a community grant in July 2015 and are not eligible to receive further funding within this financial year. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Church Minshull Village Hall

Total project cost £850	Amount requested £850	Declined
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Church Minshull Village Hall require funding for the installation of broadband within the hall for use by their users and to also introduce instruction to those members of the community that do not have access to or are unable to use the internet. The organisation has not completed the correct application form and has not provided their safeguarding policy. As broadband is classed as a running cost, this cannot be funded by the scheme, their only eligible costs is that of the laptop. It is recommended that the application is declined and that the hall applies again in the next round for different purposes once all documentation (safeguarding and equalities policies) is in place.

EDGE Inclusion Partners

Total project cost £20,540	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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EDGE Inclusion Partners are applying again for the same purpose that was applied for in the July round of grants. The organisation requires funding to create an office base/drop in facility. Specific costs are facility hire and staffing costs, which unfortunately cannot be funded by the scheme. It is recommended that the application is declined.

Egerton Youth Zone

Total project cost £10,712	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Egerton Youth Zone requires funding to redecorate the café/bar area and purchase replacement chairs and tables. This area is the main area used by Egerton Youth Zone and the chairs/tables are past their useful life. The club will be contributing towards this project and have applied to Manchester Airport. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 subject to the receipt of the monitoring information from their previous grant which is currently being compiled and the implementation of an equalities policy.

Elim Christian Life Centre

Total project cost £4,918	Amount requested £4,918	Awarded £3,500
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Elim Christian Life Centre requires funding to update their kitchen. The building is used by both the church and other organisations and has a weekly footfall of approximately 460 people. A new, hardwearing kitchen is needed to support the constant use. The church is not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from elsewhere due to fundraising for the upstairs to be refurbished which contributed towards a wren grant. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 towards the project and that the remaining project costs are sought from other sources.

Hurdsfield Community Group

Total project cost £20,608	Amount requested £3,000	Deferred
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Hurdsfield Community Group requires funding to maintain the library that was transferred to the group from Cheshire East Council in 2014. Specific costs include shelves, computers, stationary, advertising and workshops. It is not clear from the application form, what the total breakdown of costs for the full project will be. The form is missing information on the organisations bank account and supporting documentation. Supporting documentation has not been submitted with the form. It is recommended that the application is deferred to the January round of grants pending further information.

Just Drop In Youth Information and Advice

Total project cost £2,140	Amount requested £940	Awarded £940
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Just Drop In require funding for the redecoration of their upstairs area which is set up as a life skills kitchen where young people meet to learn new skills such as budgeting, cooking, healthy eating, washing and ironing and food hygiene. The area is now looking tired and in need of refreshment. New projects are starting to be run from the kitchen area and the redecoration would also support these projects. The group are contributing to the project themselves and have in-kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £940.

Langley Cricket Club

Total project cost £2,649	Amount requested £2,000	Awarded £1,500
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Langley Cricket Club requires funding to replace the dilapidated entrance to their site. The fence is rotten with nails protruding. The club have been working closely with the Parish Plan committee and the project is identified as fulfilling some of the plans aims. With the new entrance, the ground can be opened up to families and walkers within the wider community. The club will be contributing to the project but do not have contributions from elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,500 and that the remaining project costs are sought from the Parish Council as the project will be helping them to achieve their Parish Plan aims.

Reach Out and Recover

Total project cost £11,041	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Reach Out and Recover require funding for furnishings for houses to enable people to live in a normal functioning environment, maintain a tenancy and work towards moving into their own accommodation and running a house properly. The organisation will be contributing the remaining project costs. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 towards this project on the condition of looking into obtaining furniture from the Furniture Re-use Forum.

Rode Heath Village Hall

Total project cost £4,486	Amount requested £3,687	Awarded £3,000
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Rode Heath Village Hall requires funding for a new stage due to the current one being very old and unsafe. The hall is used by many groups and the committee hold regular entertainment evenings and performers need to use a stage that is fit for purpose. The organisation will be making a contribution to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 towards the project and that they seek support from the local parish council. The organisation is currently in the process of finalising their safeguarding and equalities policies. It is therefore also recommended that the grant award should be on the condition of the receipt of the final policies.

St Chads Handforth

Total project cost £34,570	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £3,500
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St Chad's Church in Handforth require funding to upgrade the existing toilet facilities which will require major building works such as the demolition of internal walls and the repositioning of the boiler. The church hall can then become a meeting place which can be used by disabled people, mothers/carers and childminders etc. The church will be contributing to this project and have applied to numerous other sources. If all grant applications are successful, they will exceed their total project cost. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 on the condition that other funding is secured, as per their application form.

Wilmslow Cricket Club

Total project cost £3,800	Amount requested £2,800	Awarded £1,800
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Wilmslow Cricket Club requires funding to replace their pitch roller which is 50 years old and in poor condition and is dangerous. Without a new roller, the club will be unable to provide a pitch of a sufficient standard for the leagues that the club plays in. The club will be part exchanging their current roller, reducing the project cost by £1,000. There are no other contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,800 and that the remaining project costs are sought from other sources, such as the Town Council.

Wrenbury Bowling Club

Total project cost £8,233	Amount requested £3,949	Awarded £3,949
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Wrenbury Bowling Club requires funding to improve the lighting provision at the club. Current lighting was installed 30 years ago and is now not up to standard for league bowls which is played in the evening. The club are contributing to the costs themselves and have applied to another source also. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,949.

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 2015/16

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 2015/16. 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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