

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet Member for Communities

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2016
<b>Report of:</b>	Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
<b>Subject/Title:</b>	Allocation of Community Grants
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor L Gilbert

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To determine the award of Community Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council. The Council recognises the valuable input that the Voluntary and Community Sector brings to the quality of life in the community. Funding is focussed on those organisations that complement the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 The report covers the fourth and final round of grants for 2015/16 and makes recommendations totalling £58,513 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

Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd	Awarded £960
East Cheshire Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends	Awarded £1,000
Middlewich Vision Fab Partnership	Deferred
Motherwell CIC	Awarded £500
Nantwich Film Festival	Awarded £1,000
Shavington Village Festival Committee	Awarded £1,000
South West Cheshire District Scout Council	Awarded £880
Tempo	Awarded £1,000
Wild Rumpus	Awarded £1,000

#### Activities

Air Training Corps 201 Squadron Macclesfield	Awarded £465
Air Training Corps 2493 (Alsager) Squadron	Awarded £1,000
Central Cheshire Buddy Scheme	Awarded £175
Cheshire Schools Cricket Association	Deferred
Congleton Youth In Action	Awarded £400
Evolve: Tackling Legal Highs	Deferred
Extra Mile Home Care Ltd	Declined
Friends for Leisure	Awarded £500
Inspired Gymnastics	Declined

Knutsford Hosts	Awarded £175
Middlewich Music	Declined
Prestbury Tennis Club	Awarded £500
Wilmslow Clean Team	Awarded £500
Wrenbury Friendly Club	Awarded £500
Wythenshawe Development Trust	Awarded £500

### **Facilities**

1 <sup>st</sup> Alsager Scout Group	Declined
Age UK Cheshire East	Awarded £5,000
Bollington Pre School	Awarded £2,806
Cheshire Blades Football Club	Awarded £5,000
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Awarded £2,500
Christ Church Alsager	Awarded £3,000
Congleton Pentecostal Church	Awarded £2,652
Hankelow Methodist Church	Awarded £1,000
Holmes Chapel Rugby Football Club	Awarded £5,000
Hurdsfield Community Group	Declined
Middlewich Community Trust	Awarded £3,500
Morton Hall Community Centre	Awarded £2,500
Pickmere Methodist Church	Awarded £5,000
Prestbury Youth Club	Awarded £5,000
South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club	Awarded £2,500
St Clements Court Social Fund	Awarded £1,000
Wilmslow Guild	Deferred

## **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)**

### **3.1**

#### **Events:**

##### **Cre8 Macclesfield Ltd**

<b>Total project cost £7,902</b>	<b>Amount requested £960</b>	<b>Amount awarded £960</b>
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Cre8 require funding towards the publicity and advertising costs, craft materials and volunteer t-shirts for their event being held in the summer, to showcase the talents of the young people in the area. The group are contributing towards the cost of the festival themselves and have donations and in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £960.

##### **East Cheshire Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

<b>Total project cost £2,556</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Amount awarded £1,000</b>
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Funding is required towards exhibition and display boards, leaflets, posters and craft activities. The group have projected income from ticket sales, a contribution from the Town Council and an individual donation. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

##### **Middlewich Vision Fab Partnership**

<b>Total project cost £10,950</b>	<b>Amount requested £950</b>	<b>Deferred</b>
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Funding is required to fund activities over the weekend of the folk and boat festival, such as animal activities and crafts. No supporting documentation has been received and the bank account is that of Middlewich Vision who have already received funding within this financial year. It is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round pending the receipt of the correct documentation and bank account details of the fab partnership.

### **Motherwell CIC**

<b>Total project cost £2,451</b>	<b>Amount requested £951</b>	<b>Awarded £500</b>
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Motherwell CIC is holding an event in celebration of International Women's Day. Eligible costs include promotional materials, balloons and candles. Other costs include room hire and food, which cannot be funded. The group have a grant towards the exhibition element of their event. It is recommended that they are awarded £500.

### **Nantwich Film Festival**

<b>Total project cost £8,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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Funding is required towards the programme of the festival, advertising and film licenses. Supporting documentation has not been submitted with the application. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 but on the condition of the receipt of the correct signed documentation. The event is due to take place in May and funding needs to be in place to allow planning.

### **Shavington Village Festival Committee**

<b>Total project cost £14,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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Funding is required towards the props for the pantomime production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The group are contributing towards the costs themselves and have sponsorship. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

### **South West Cheshire District Scout Council**

<b>Total project cost £22,780</b>	<b>Amount requested £880</b>	<b>Awarded £880</b>
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Funding is required towards the cost of printing flyers, posters and banners to promote the Gang Show. There will be projected income from ticket sales and sponsorship/donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £880.

### **Tempo**

<b>Total project cost £29,492</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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TEMPO requires funding towards their production of 'Starlight Express' in March 2016. Costs include sound and lighting, costumes, set and props, hire of musicians etc. The group will have income from ticket sales, a small sponsorship and donations towards their costs. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 on the condition of the receipt of their constitution and safeguarding policy, which has already been requested

### **Wild Rumpus**

<b>Total project cost £4,550</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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Wild Rumpus requires funding to improve the accessibility to the Just So Festival. The group wish to provide more accessible toilets and showers, disability training for volunteers, audio versions of programmes, programming arts organisations that employ deaf and disabled performers. This will help to achieve the aim of breaking down barriers that prevent deaf and disabled people engaging in the arts. There will be projected income from ticket sales and a contribution from themselves. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000.

## **Activities:**

### **Air Training Corps 201 Squadron (Macclesfield)**

<b>Total project cost £650</b>	<b>Amount requested £650</b>	<b>Awarded £465</b>
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Funding is required to replace the squadron's ceremonial banner which is over 25 years old and is becoming worn. The group also require funding for correct ceremonial uniform. The poor state of the banner and lack of correct uniform is preventing the group's activities and participation in competitions. The group have not applied elsewhere and are not contributing to the project. It is recommended that they are awarded £465 for the costs of the banner and that they also seek support from other funding sources.

**Air Training Corps 2493 Squadron (Alsager)**

<b>Total project cost £9,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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Funding is required to replace old and worn out band equipment, instruments are over 20 years old. The group will be contributing towards the project but have not applied elsewhere. The application was received under the facilities category and £5,000 was applied for, however, this project fits under the activities category where a maximum of £1,000 can be applied for. It is therefore recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and that they seek support from other funding sources such as the Town Council for the remaining project costs.

**Central Cheshire Buddy Scheme**

<b>Total project cost £469</b>	<b>Amount requested £289</b>	<b>Awarded £175</b>
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Funding is required towards play equipment for young people that attend sessions, specifically different types of ball, for the inclusion of all children at the sessions. The group will be contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £175 and that they also seek support from the town council.

**Cheshire School's Cricket Association**

<b>Total project cost £1,650</b>	<b>Amount requested £750</b>	<b>Deferred</b>
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Cheshire Schools Cricket Association requires funding towards hosting cup competitions between schools in Cheshire. Supporting documentation has not been submitted with the application. Cricket finals are due to take place in June/July. It is recommended that the application is deferred to the next round pending receipt of their supporting documentation.

**Congleton Youth In Action**

<b>Total project cost £800</b>	<b>Amount requested £600</b>	<b>Awarded £400</b>
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Congleton Youth in Action require funding for children's play equipment and for publicity. The group wish to ensure that young people have stimulating activities that promote development. Toys are well used and need replacing. The group are contributing to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £400 and that they also seek support from other funding sources.

**Evolve: Tackling Legal Highs**

<b>Total project cost £1,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Deferred</b>
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Funding has been requested to offer additional sessions for young people of Cheshire East. A breakdown of costs is not included so it is not stated what the costs of the sessions are or where the sessions are taking place. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending further information on the session costs and location as we are unable to fund staffing. We also require information on the impact and benefit of holding sessions.

**Extra Mile Home Care Ltd**

<b>Total project cost £1,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Declined</b>
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Application appears to be from an individual wishing to set up a business. No supporting documentation is in place and the bank account is not in the organisation name. It is recommended that the application is declined.

**Friends for Leisure**

<b>Total project cost £6,535</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Awarded £500</b>
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Friends for Leisure require funding towards a volunteer training programme in order to provide the best help, opportunities and friendships for disabled children and young people. Costs include materials and training/coaching fees. The majority of the project costs are the salary costs of the volunteer co-ordinator, which cannot be funded by the scheme. The group are making a contribution and have other grant funding. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 as a contribution towards the eligible costs of the project.

### **Inspired Gymnastics**

<b>Total project cost £1,125</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Declined</b>
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Inspired Gymnastics require funding for equipment in order to carry out classes in local schools. No supporting documentation has been submitted with the application and the organisation seems to be operating as a personal business. It is recommended that the application is declined.

### **Knutsford Hosts**

<b>Total project cost £500</b>	<b>Amount requested £375</b>	<b>Awarded £175</b>
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Knutsford Hosts require funding towards specially designed badges that hosts wear when attending/supporting events, due to the growth in volunteers, a re-order of badges is required. Knutsford hosts are also applying for insurance costs and website hosting costs and updates, these cannot be funded by the scheme, and it is therefore recommended that they are awarded £175 towards the costs of the badges.

### **Middlewich Music**

<b>Total project cost £2,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £2000</b>	<b>Declined</b>
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Middlewich Music Festival requires funding to hold a music event with a headline act on a field in Middlewich. No supporting documentation has been submitted with the application and there is no organisation bank account. It is recommended that the application is declined.

### **Prestbury Tennis Club**

<b>Total project cost £2,410</b>	<b>Amount requested £970</b>	<b>Awarded £500</b>
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Prestbury Tennis Club requires funding to pilot an outreach project in schools to encourage more young people to take up tennis. Funding is required towards portable nets/equipment to take to schools and for the training of volunteers. They are contributing towards the project themselves and have in kind contributions. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the local parish council.

### **Wilmslow Clean Team**

<b>Total project cost £910</b>	<b>Amount requested £910</b>	<b>Awarded £500</b>
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Wilmslow Clean Team requires funding towards advertising materials, public liability insurance and additional litter picking equipment. Unfortunately, insurance cannot be covered by the scheme. They are not contributing towards the project but have no reserves. They have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they seek support from other sources for remaining project costs.

### **Wrenbury Friendly Club**

<b>Total project cost £1,504</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,000</b>	<b>Awarded £500</b>
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Funding is required towards IT equipment so that the group can offer IT classes for beginners. Part of the project costs include room hire which cannot be funded. The club are contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 and that they seek support from the parish council or other funding sources.

### **Wythenshawe Development Trust (Wilmslow Furniture Recycling)**

<b>Total project cost £939</b>	<b>Amount requested £939</b>	<b>Awarded £500</b>
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Funding is required to purchase a PAT tester and pass/fail labels. The community often offers electrical equipment for the group to pass on to other local families but the equipment needs to be tested before passing on as part of the organisation's safety process. Volunteers are being trained on how to use the equipment. The group are not contributing to the project but have little reserves. They have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that that are awarded £500 and that they also seek support from the Town Council.

## Facilities:

### **1<sup>st</sup> Alsager Scout Group**

<b>Total project cost £5,380</b>	<b>Amount requested £3,000</b>	<b>Declined</b>
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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. The application was deferred from October pending further information on their future sustainability and wider community use of their building. When the requested information was returned, it was stated that the project would be carried out in a matter of urgency. As the fund cannot award grants retrospectively, it is recommended that the application is declined.

### **Age UK Cheshire East**

<b>Total project cost £331,791</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £5,000</b>
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Funding is required to upscale facilities currently offered for those living with dementia. The grant would be used for refurbishment costs for the transformation of the New Horizons head office into 'Macclesfield Day Care Centre' to meet unmet demand for this service. This is a large project with grant applications for capital costs being made to other organisations and running costs being met by charges to service users. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

### **Bollington Pre School**

<b>Total project cost £4,205</b>	<b>Amount requested £2,806</b>	<b>Awarded £2,806</b>
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Bollington Pre School wish to improve their resources and facilities by creating a sensory room. It is intended that the facility will be opened to the wider community out of school hours and at weekends for stay and play sessions. They are contributing towards the project, have a contribution from the town council and have applied for other grants. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,806 on the condition that monitoring information shows and highlights the benefits to the wider community when the facility is opened up at weekend.

### **Cheshire Blades Football Club**

<b>Total project cost £9,950</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £5,000</b>
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Cheshire Blades FC requires funding to bring their clubhouse up to date and to make it fit for purpose, this will include new toilet facilities and the fitting of CCTV. The club are contributing towards this project despite small reserves and have sponsorship. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

### **Cheshire Wildlife Trust**

<b>Total project cost £8,723</b>	<b>Amount requested £3,087</b>	<b>Awarded £2,500</b>
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Cheshire Wildlife Trust requires funding to create a new forest school site at Quinta Nature Reserve in Swettenham. This will offer children hands-on learning in a woodland environment. The trust is contributing to the project and have in-kind contributions but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 and that they also seek support from other sources.

### **Christ Church Alsager**

<b>Total project cost £6,324</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £3,000</b>
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Christ Church Alsager requires funding to replace carpets in 3 community rooms which are worn and faded, as well the curtains. A new freezer is also required to enable ease of catering, particularly for a new community breakfast club that is proving successful. The church are making a contribution to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,000 and that they also seek support from other funding sources.

### **Congleton Pentecostal Church**

<b>Total project cost £4,308</b>	<b>Amount requested £2,652</b>	<b>Awarded £2,652</b>
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Congleton Pentecostal Church require funding to replace old tv screens used by the youth club and to replace the PA system to ensure those with hearing difficulties are able to hear talks at events. The church has grant contributions towards the project but is not able to contribute due to little reserves. It is recommended that that are awarded £2,652.

### **Hankelow Methodist Church**

<b>Total project cost £2,864</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,864</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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Hankelow Methodist Church is undergoing a large renovation in order to open the facility up to the community. Once the refurbishment is complete, the church will require equipment such as audio/visual equipment and tablet computers for local community events and bookings. IT classes will also be held and there is a requirement for the installation of broadband - which cannot be funded by the scheme. The Church are contributing to the project themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 as a contribution towards the project and that they also seek support from other funding organisations.

### **Holmes Chapel Rugby Football Club**

<b>Total project cost £19,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £5,000</b>
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Holmes Chapel Rugby Club requires funding to develop the changing rooms at Holmes Chapel Community Centre which have been neglected over a number of years. New heating systems are required and outdoor toilets as well as a complete refurbishment. The club are working in Partnership with Everybody Sport and Recreation, and both are contributing towards the project. There is also a contribution from the parish council and a grant applied for to the Rugby Football Foundation. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

### **Hurdsfield Community Group**

<b>Total project cost £3,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £3,000</b>	<b>Declined</b>
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Hurdsfield Community Group requires funding to maintain the library that was transferred to the group from CEC 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. The application was deferred from the October round pending further information; however, this was not received. It is recommended that the application is declined.

### **Middlewich Community Trust**

<b>Total project cost £6,250</b>	<b>Amount requested £4,500</b>	<b>Awarded £3,500</b>
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Middlewich Community Trust requires funding to convert overgrown land behind the town hall into a community garden and events area. Initial costs include clearance of the land which will open up a space that will be accessible for the community throughout local events. The group are making a contribution, as well as the town council there are also in kind donations but no applications have been made to other funding sources when funding for community gardens is available. It is recommended that they are awarded £3,500 and seek support from other funding sources upon receipt of their safeguarding policy.

### **Morton Hall Community Centre**

<b>Total project cost £4,500</b>	<b>Amount requested £4,000</b>	<b>Awarded £2,500</b>
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Morton Hall Community Centre requires funding to refurbish the badly worn wooden floor in the main hall. As the floor is sprung, it requires specialist companies to carry out the work. Several user groups have complained about the current floor and bookings are being lost. The group are making a contribution to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 and that they also apply to other funding sources for the remaining project costs.

#### **Pickmere Methodist Church**

<b>Total project cost £25,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £5,000</b>
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Pickmere Methodist Church requires funding to replace their flat roof that is leaking making the room unacceptable for users. The Church also wishes to purchase a carpet for the toddler group who use the group on a weekly basis. The Church will be contributing themselves and have other grant funding as well as donations. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000 on condition of the receipt of the supporting documentation, so that the roof can be repaired without delay.

#### **Prestbury Youth Club**

<b>Total project cost £121,245</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £5,000</b>
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Prestbury Youth Club is undertaking a large project to build a new youth and community centre following the closure and imminent demolition of their original building. The grant funding is required to help with match funding for other large applications that are being made. The club will be contributing towards the project and have made large applications elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £5,000.

#### **South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club**

<b>Total project cost £10,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £5,000</b>	<b>Awarded £2,500</b>
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South Cheshire ABC requires funding to insulate their current space and replace windows to make the venue more suitable for use throughout the winter months, which will hopefully increase participation at the club. The club have a donation and a contribution from the venue owner. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,500 on the condition of a copy of the current lease agreement document and that the remaining project costs are sought from other funding organisations.

#### **St Clements Court Social Fund**

<b>Total project cost £2,000</b>	<b>Amount requested £2,000</b>	<b>Awarded £1,000</b>
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St Clements Court Social Fund require funding to set up a new luncheon club for residents of the accommodation and for local elderly people, with an aim of St Clements becoming a focal point for lonely, isolated people in the area. Costs are kitchen equipment including a fridge-freezer to keep the food in. The group will be making a contribution to the project but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,000 and that they also seek support from other sources.

#### **Wilmslow Guild**

<b>Total project cost £4,667</b>	<b>Amount requested £1,800</b>	<b>Deferred</b>
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Wilmslow Guild is applying for funding for the replacement of rotten windows in the stairwell and craft room. Funding was awarded in the last financial year towards window replacement. Repeat funding cannot be granted. It is recommended that the application is deferred pending further information on the development plans for the building, are there any further window refurbishment phases. How many people use the centre? What will the benefits of the projects be?

### **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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