CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities and Health

Date of Meeting: 25th April 2016

Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities

Subject/Title: Allocation of Community Grants

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Bates

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. Grants are awarded to those organisations which meet the Council's Residents First Outcomes.
- 1.2 The report covers the first round of grants for 2016/17 and makes recommendations totalling £49,737 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

Audlem Music and Arts Festival
Starr in the Community CIC
Priends of The Heath
RedShift Radio
Community Spirit
Wilmslow Partnership
Acton Amateur Operatic Society
Awarded £1,000
Awarded £1,000
Awarded £750

Knutsford Promenades Association Deferred

TS Ambuscade - Crewe Sea Cadets Awarded £1,000

Activities

King Edward Music Society of Macclesfield

Disley Arts Society

Sports Works Cheshire CIC

Prestbury Choral Society

The Neuromuscular Centre

Cranage 2000 Art Club

Air Cadets Sandbach

Declined

Declined

Declined

Declined

Declined

The Bigger Picture Film Club and Nantwich Family Films @4 Awarded £1,000

SOL Theatre School
Cheshire Learning Partnership CIC
Wheelock Holiday Club
Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society

Awarded £97
Declined
Declined
Declined
Declined

South Cheshire Youth League Declined Congleton Disabled Access Group Deferred

Warrior Martial Arts Awarded £1,000

Facilities

1st Sutton St James Scout & Guide GroupAwarded £536Enterprise and Education Alliance LimitedAwarded £65035th South West Cheshire Scout GroupAwarded £2,500

St David's Church, Wettenhall Declined

Winterley Methodist Church & Community Centre

Styal Sports and Social Club

Knutsford Cricket Club

Friends of Queens Park

Friends of Alderley Edge Railway Station

Awarded £2,500

Awarded £2,500

Awarded £2,500

Awarded £2,500

Awarded £2,500

St John's Community Centre Deferred

Alderley Edge Partnership Awarded £1,000 East Cheshire Sub Agua Club Awarded £2.500 Baddiley and Ravensmoor Methodist Church Awarded £2,500 Rode Heath Young Peoples Community Centre Awarded £2.000 Brindley and Faddiley Village Hall Awarded £2,500 Poynton Parish Plan Monitoring Group Awarded £2.500 Warmingham & District Parish Hall Awarded £5,000 Scholar Green Community Village Hall Awarded £2.500 Middlewich Community Church - MoCoCo House Awarded £2,500 Nantwich Methodist Church Awarded £750 Bromley Farm Community Development Trust Awarded £2,500 Shavington Youth Club Awarded £1,000 St John The Evangelist PCC Awarded £1.500

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

Mow Cop, Mount Pleasant and The Bank Village Hall

3.1 Events:

Audlem Music and Arts Festival

Total project cost £17,000 | Amount requested £1,000 | Amount awarded £1,000

This 5 day festival is largely funded through own fundraising and the parish council. Attendance is free for all in the village. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000

Awarded £1.000

Starr in the Community CIC

Total project cost £14,783 | Amount requested £1,000 | Amount awarded Declined

Starr in the Community are requesting £1,000 to cover some of the costs of providing free tickets to children with disabilities and special needs as well as disadvantaged children in the Crewe area. They have sponsorship and donations that more than cover the project costs and state that any remaining profits are donated to a number of other charities. As they have already secured all of the project costs and the community grant scheme does fund general appeals and sponsorship for own or other organisations it is recommended that the application is declined.

Friends of The Heath

Friends of The Heath intend to hold an outdoor event comprising of a picnic and family orientated, nature based, activities. They are applying for funding to promote the event, hold

activities and for their public liability insurance. The grant scheme cannot cover the costs of insurances. They have applied for other grant funding but do not have a contribution from themselves or their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £500 towards the activities on condition of receiving a copy of their safeguarding policy.

RedShift Radio

RedShift Radio wish to hold the 3rd annual Big Day Out and are asking for a contribution towards crowd control, event security, PA system and wristbands. They have already secured £7,750 of the projected costs through sponsorship, own fundraising and a contribution from the town council. It is recommended they are awarded £250

Community Spirit

Total project cost £3,057 Amount requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

The group wish to hold their annual fun day in July. They are requesting funding towards the costs of activities for the event. They have contributions from their local council, sponsors, donations, projected ticket sales and their own fundraising. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000

Wilmslow Partnership

Total project cost £1,745 Amount requested £995 Declined

The partnership wish to create a large street art picture as part of their In Bloom entry. They have a contribution from their local council but are not making a contribution themselves or have funding from any other sources. It is recommended the application is declined.

Acton Amateur Operatic Society

Total project cost £23,200 Amount requested £1,000 Awarded £750

The society require scenery and props for their October performance. They have projected income from ticket sales, own fund raising, donations and grants. It is recommended they are awarded £750

Knutsford Promenades Association

Total project cost £7,250 Amount requested £1,000 Deferred

The group wish to participate in town wide Heritage Open Days during September 2016, which is Knutsford's Canute Millennial year. They are contributing themselves and have sponsorship, they are also continuing to fundraise and seek further sponsorship up to the events and are confident they will secure the full amount. It is recommended the application is deferred whilst further information about the Heritage Open Day scheme and how it is promoted across Cheshire East is sought.

TS Ambuscade – Crewe Sea Cadets

Total project cost £5,928 Amount requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

The Sea Cadets are the lead organisation in arranging Crewe's first military festival as part of Armed Forces Day, which is to be held at Queens Park. They are looking to put on a number of activities that will be supported by many community groups in the area. They are contributing themselves and have applied to Crewe Town Council and the MOD. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000

3.2 Activities:

King Edward Music Society of Macclesfield

4 acoustic screens are required to protect the orchestral players ears from damage by excessive orchestral volumes. They are not contributing themselves and have not sought

other funding. They have received previous grants from the Council. It is recommended the application is declined.

Disley Arts Society

Total project cost £350 Amount requested £350 Declined

The society wish to hold demonstrations and workshops in a variety of art mediums to their new members. They are not contributing themselves and have not sought other funding. They have received a number of grants from the scheme over previous years and have said that any shortfall can be covered through an increase in their subscriptions. It is recommended the application is declined.

Sports Works Cheshire CIC

Total project cost £927 Amount requested £867 Deferred

This Warrington based company is new to working in the area and it is not clear how they will fund the proposed girls football sessions beyond the initial 3 month period. It is recommended the application is deferred pending further information about the organisation and their future plans for working with young girls in Crewe.

Prestbury Choral Society

Total project cost £439 Amount requested £250 Declined

The choral society wish to produce programme brochures and other advertising materials for their concerts. They are contributing half of the costs themselves. they have stated that any shortfall will be covered from existing funds and the project will not be delayed. It is recommended the application is declined.

The Neuromuscular Centre

Total project cost £1,000 Amount requested £1,000 Awarded £750

The Neuromuscular Centre, based in Winsford, serves the whole of Cheshire for people with muscular dystrophy. They wish to form a wheelchair football team to play at MMU in Crewe. Funding is required in order to establish the group following a successful trial period. Once established they will introduce subs to cover ongoing costs. They are contributing a small amount themselves and have free hire of the facilities at MMU but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £750

Cranage 2000 Art Club

Total project cost £2,573 Amount requested £1,000 Declined

The group wish to purchase improved lighting for their exhibition, along with display stands and promotional materials. They have already secured over the total amount of project costs through fundraising and projected ticket sales. It is recommended the application is declined.

Air Cadets Sandbach

Total project cost £1,200 | Amount requested £1,000 | Declined

The group wish to purchase10 laptops/tablets for cadets to complete their DofE coursework. The Air Cadets have previously received a Giveback Grant in March 2015 also requested to purchase laptops for the same purpose. It is recommended the application is declined.

The Bigger Picture Film Club and Nantwich Family Films @4

		- C -
Total project cost £6,256	Amount requested £3,881	Awarded £1,000

The group have submitted two applications one of which is to create a CIC to oversee the 4 community cinema projects in the area and one to purchase a new projector and screen, clothing for stewards, publicity and a contribution towards licences. The scheme cannot cover licence costs and can only accept one application per organisation in each financial year. They have an income from projected ticket sales and from their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £1000 as a contribution towards a new projector.

SOL Theatre School

Total project cost £14,550 | Amount requested £1,000 | Declined

The group have asked for a contribution towards the hire costs of Daneside Theatre and provision of the necessary performance and musical licences to perform the show "Sunshine". SOL Theatre School have applied repeatedly to the scheme for a number of years and whilst the scheme has funded different elements of the theatre school repeat funding cannot be granted. They have also secured more funding than the project costs. It is recommended the application is declined.

Cheshire Learning Partnership CIC

Total project cost £1,900 Amount requested £1,000 Declined

The group wish to replace their worn tables and chairs and purchase ipads, tablets and mobile phones to increase capacity and enhance their outreach provision. They have a contribution from their own fundraising and their local council but have not applied elsewhere. As this project is not imperative to the running of the groups core business it is recommended the application is declined and the organisation is given advice on other funding sources and included in mailings for Council furniture disposal.

Wheelock Holiday Club

Total project cost	£345	Amount requested £97	Amount Awarded £97

The holiday club wish to purchase an MP3 player and case to download and record the tracks required to go along with the music and DVD's used for activities with the 5-11 year olds that use the holiday club. They are contributing themselves and have a contribution from their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £97

Wilmslow Symphony Orchestral Society

Total project cost £948	Amount requested £450	Declined
i otai project cost 2370	Allibuilt requested 2700	Decillied

The orchestra wish to purchase acoustic screens for health and safety of their players. They are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the town council. They have received a number of grants in the past from the scheme. It is recommended the application is declined.

South Cheshire Youth League

Total project cost ?	Amount requested ?	Declined
----------------------	--------------------	----------

The application has not been completed in full and despite a request for further information nothing has been received. It is recommended the application is declined.

Congleton Disabled Access Group

Total project cost £910	Amount requested £910	Deferred	

The group wish to replace the scooter batteries that have been in use and recharged for 8 years. The scooters are used as part of the Congleton Shopmobility Scheme. They are not contributing themselves and do not have a contribution from the town council. They do state that they are applying to other funders. As the organisation is in the process of securing new premises it is recommended the application is deferred until new premises are found.

Warrior Martial Arts

Total project cost £1,840 Amount requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

The group are moving to a new location to accommodate their growing junior student base and need a new mated area for training. They have applied under the facilities category but this project should be submitted under activities. They have included project costs for other work, some of which has already been completed and as retrospective funding cannot be granted this cannot be considered with the application. They have not requested funding from other sources. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 and request the additional funding from Congleton town council or other funding sources.

3.3 Facilities:

1st Sutton St James Scout and Guide Group

Total project cost £4,990 Amount requested £536 Amount Awarded £536

Stage lighting is required for the Scouts HQ. The stage is used for a minimum of 14 performances per year, including their own Gang Show and fundraising concerts. It is also used by other community groups in the area. The funding is requested as 3rd party funding for WREN. It is recommended they are awarded £536

Enterprise and Education Alliance Limited

Total project cost £1,650 | Amount requested £1,650 | Amount Awarded £650

The group wish to install a disabled ramp for access to the community garden, where members visit to plant up. In addition they wish to purchase a small selection of power tools and other gardening equipment. They are not contributing themselves and have not sought other funding. It is recommended they are awarded £650 and request the additional funding from Crewe Town Council or other funding sources.

35th South West Cheshire Scout Group

Total project cost £180,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

This is a large project that has been broken down into phases. The group received a Giveback grant for £10,000 as a contribution to the first phase of the build project and are now requesting a grant towards internal decoration, electrics and heating, joinery, new kitchen and toilets. They have received grants from other sources, including the town council and have their own fundraising. They are also applying elsewhere for the remainder of the project costs. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500

St David's Church Wettehnall

Total project cost £6,023 Amount requested £2,500 Declined

As there is no community hall in Wettenhall the Church is used for both worship and as a base for a mix of community activity for the village. They wish to re-decorate to make the building more inviting for the individuals and groups who are using it. They are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the parish council. As the redecoration does not contribute to the Residents First Outcomes it is recommended that the application is declined.

Winterley Methodist Church and Community Centre

Total project cost £160,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

The church wish to build a single storey extension to provide a lobby, toilets, kitchenette and office. This will primarily be used for the pre-school but will enable more community activity to take place by having a separate area for the pre-school providing safeguarding of the children. They already have a number of groups who use the building and hope to increase this with the extension. They have secured large grants from other funding sources, have their own fundraising and have a contribution from their local council. They are continuing to fundraise and submitting further grant applications. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500.

Styal Sports and Social Club

Total project cost £8,000 Amount requested £4,000 Amount Awarded £2,500

The club wish to refurbish their club house with external décor, electricity re-wiring and a kitchen refresh. It is hoped the refurbishment will encourage more bookings of the club and help to cover future running costs. They are contributing themselves and have a contribution from their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500 on receipt of their constitution, safeguarding policy and supporting documents.

Knutsford Cricket Club

Total project cost £574 Amount requested £454 Amount Awarded £454

The club wish to replace their existing wicket covers, that are old and leaking, are cumbersome and require a lot of time and effort to use, with a layflat waterproof sheet. The cost of replacing like-for-like is several thousand pounds whereas this system is a lot more cost-effective. They are making a contribution themselves. It is recommended they are awarded £454.

Friends of Queens Park

Total project cost £20,302 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

The group wish to refurbish/re-landscape the Burma Star memorial in Queens Park and slightly relocate the memorial. This will create a more attractive position for the memorial and those wishing to spend time near it. They have contributions from other grant funders, and their own fundraising but not from their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500 and seek the remaining project costs from Crewe Town Council.

Friends of Alderley Edge Railway Station

Total project cost £5,349 Amount requested £5,000 Amount Awarded £1,000

This is a new organisation which is yet to formalise their constitution and other supporting documents. They are looking to adopt the railway station and replace existing planters and hanging baskets and create a community garden. They are working with the rail company and officers of the Council to take forward the community garden project. They have applied for £4,000 in other grant funding but have not made a contribution themselves and do not have a contribution from their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 on condition of supplying a copy of their constitution, safeguarding policy and bank account details.

St John's Community Centre

Total project cost £15,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Deferred

St John's Community Centre have previously received £15,000 from the Giveback fund as a contribution to the refurbishment of their community centre. They are looking for additional funding to refurbish the kitchen in the centre. They have a contribution from their own fundraising and a contribution from the parish council but have an additional shortfall of £8,000. It is recommended the application is deferred whilst further information is supplied on how the remaining project costs can be secured.

Alderley Edge Partnership

This is a new organisation which is yet to formalise their constitution and other supporting documents. They are looking to replace the existing planters and hanging baskets in the village, which belong to Alderley Edge Parish Council, in order to enter Alderley Edge in Bloom. They are also seeking funding for gardening tools and litter pickers They have applied for £2,000 in other grant funding but have not made a contribution themselves and do not have a contribution from the parish council. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 on condition of supplying a copy of their constitution, safeguarding policy and bank account details.

East Cheshire Sub Aqua Club

Total project cost £8,000 Amount requested £5,000 Amount Awarded £2,500

The sub aqua club are looking to refurbish the kitchen in their club house to support community events. Environmental health have visited the club house and said that the kitchen is no longer fit for purpose, as such all food must now be prepared off site. They are willing to cover the projected shortfall in funding through fundraising and existing club funds and have an in-kind contribution but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500

Baddiley and Ravensmoor Methodist Church

Total project cost £12,200 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

The church wish to refurbish their community hall and room next to the hall to create a community space and meeting room. They are in discussions about becoming a community hub and are the only community venue in the local area. They have contributions from fundraising and donations but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded $\pounds 2,500$

Rode Heath Young Peoples Community Centre

Total project cost £4,800 | Amount requested £2,000 | Amount Awarded £2,000

The community centre is used by a number of different community groups and is the hub for the village. They wish to refurbish the community centre kitchen which is 25+years old. They have contributions from their own fundraising, other grant funders and their local council. It is recommended they are awarded £2,000

Brindley and Faddiley Village Hall

Total project cost £18,558 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

This is a very well used hall which wishes to update a back room of the hall in order to accommodate more bookings and help to become self-sustaining. They have contributions from their own fundraising, other grant funders, donations and their parish council. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500

Poynton Parish Plan Monitoring Group

Total project cost £18,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

The group wish to construct a heritage garden in the grounds near the library. They have contributions from their own fundraising, parish council, donations and other grant funders. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500

Warmingham and District Parish Hall

Total project cost £700,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £5,000

A large bid of £610,000 has been submitted to the Big Lottery, along with a bid to WREN for £50,000 to rebuild Warmingham Village Hall. They have raised £40,000 and are asking for a contribution from the Council as third party funding for the Lottery application. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000

Scholar Green Community Village Hall

Total project cost £6,621 | Amount requested £2,621 | Amount Awarded £2,500

The group need to replace their inadequate entrance and fire doors for safety reasons. The hall is used on a daily basis by a number of different community groups. They have contributions from their own fundraising, the parish council and other grant funders. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500

Middlewich Community Church - MoCoCoHouse

Total project cost £5,000 Amount requested £4,000 Amount Awarded £2,500

The group wish to upgrade their camera system, improve the in-house laundry provision and upgrade the fire alarm system at MoCoCo House which provides accommodation for young people. They are contributing from their own funds but do not have a contribution from their local council and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500 on condition of securing the remaining project costs and supplying their constitution and safeguarding policy.

Nantwich Methodist Church

Total project cost £1,743 | Amount requested £1,531 | Amount Awarded £750

The church wish to replace their access doors for better wheelchair access and to have a crashbar for fire safety. They are making a small contribution themselves but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £750.

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust

Total project cost £10,000 | Amount requested £5,000 | Amount Awarded £2,500

The group wish to make a number of improvements to the building to create a community hub, including new storage heaters, kitchen floor, lighting, fire doors, smoke detectors and paving, all of which is being funded by Cheshire East Council Assets Team (£3,000). The remaining project costs include a storage container, tables, shelving, storage cupboard, trolley, curtains, TV, paving, noticeboards and chairs. They have a contribution from CEC, their own fundraising and a donation, including in-kind donations of decorating the whole of the centre. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500

Shavington Youth Club

Total project cost £3,200 Amount requested £3,200 Amount Awarded £1,000

The youth club wish to alter the current sports hall so that it can be used for more community activity. Project costs include chairs, stage, carpentry and acoustics and lighting equipment. They are not contributing themselves and have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 and asked to seek a contribution from their local council and through other funding sources.

St John The Evangelist PCC

Total project cost £6,767 | Amount requested £3,383 | Amount Awarded £1,500

The church wish to replace their boiler, originally installed in 1994 with a more reliable boiler. The hall is used by a number of different community groups. They are contributing themselves but have not applied elsewhere and have said that they can apply to the charity commission to use endowment funds for any project shortfall. It is recommended they are awarded £1,500

Mow Cop, Mount Pleasant and the Bank Village Hall

Total project cost £1,441 Amount requested £1,201 Amount Awarded £1,000

The group wish to install an entrance gate and fire exit. The gate is to stop unlawful access and fly-tipping / vandals. The fire exit is for H&S standards. The group hope that the upgrade will encourage more use by the local community. They have in-kind contributions but have not contributed themselves and have not asked the parish council as they have contributed to another project recently. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000

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 2016/17

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:

Name: Tina Jones

Designation: Partnerships Support Manager

Tel No: 01270 685811

Email: tina.jones@cheshireeast.gov.uk