

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 26th July 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 second round of grants for 2016/17 and makes recommendations totalling £35,367 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 Special Events Team	Awarded £900
Crewe & Nantwich Twinning Association	Declined
Dorota Karczewska	Declined
Knutsford Heritage Centre	Awarded £1,000
Sandbach Today	Awarded £195

Activities

Congleton Musical Theatre	Declined
Congleton Pentecostal Church	Awarded £340
Friends of the Moor	Awarded £800
Macclesfield Art Group	Awarded £692
Parish Plan Implementation Group	Declined
Samaritans Crewe	Awarded £400
Wishing Well	Awarded £500

Facilities

Audlem Public Hall Committee	Awarded £5,000
Church Minshull Village Hall	Awarded £3,000
Congleton Community Partnership	Awarded £5,000
Eaton with Hulme Walfield PCC	Declined
Elworth Methodist Church	Awarded £5,000
Macclesfield Town Football Club	Declined
Mere & Tabley Community Club	Awarded £5,000
New Life Church	Declined

Shavington Youth Centre
 St Matthew's Haslington
 St Michael's Church
 Visyon
 Wincle St Michael's PCC
 Wrenbury Village Hall Trust

Declined
 Awarded £3,000
 Declined
 Declined
 Awarded £4,200
 Awarded £340

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Audlem Special Events Team

Total project cost £4,918	Amount requested £1,000	Amount awarded £900
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The team wish to purchase staging and a puppet show for their Festival of Transport event. They have contributions from their own fundraising, sponsorship and donations. Due to a change in their original plans of requesting funding for an RAF flyover, their costs have reduced slightly. It is recommended they are awarded £900.

Crewe & Nantwich Twinning Association

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The association are applying for transport, hire of venue, meals, refreshments and cost of visiting local attractions around Cheshire East for overseas visitors attending as part of the 25th anniversary of the towns twinning. As none of the items being applied for can be funded under the community grants scheme it is recommended the application is declined.

Dorota Karczewska

Total project cost £600	Amount requested £600	Declined
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This application appears to be from an individual who is not part of a community or voluntary group. The bank account is in their name and they have not supplied the required documents. It is recommended the application is declined and contact is made through our community development officers to provide support.

Knutsford Heritage Centre

Total project cost £16,888	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £1,000
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Knutsford is celebrating 1000 years since Canute became King of England and has a series of events and activities planned to celebrate the Canute Millennium. The centre is requesting support for their publicity and advertising costs. They are contributing themselves, have donations and sponsorship and have a contribution from the town council. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Sandbach Today

Total project cost £708	Amount requested £195	Amount Awarded £195
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Sandbach Today are holding their annual exhibition to showcase the activities of voluntary and other groups in Sandbach. They require leaflets and banners to promote the event. They are contributing themselves and have an expected income from stalls at the event. It is recommended they are awarded £195.

3.2 Activities:

Congleton Musical Theatre

Total project cost £20,810	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The theatre group is applying for costs towards the hire of their costumes for the production of Sister Act. They are contributing themselves, have donations and sponsorship and a

contribution from the town council. They have received a community grant year-on-year since 2012 and with limited funds available it is recommended this application is declined.

Congleton Pentecostal Church

Total project cost £500	Amount requested £340	Amount Awarded £340
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The children's holiday club takes place annually during the summer holidays and is subsidised to provide a club for low income families. They require funding to purchase craft materials and advertising literature. They have a projected income from the holiday club charges but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £340.

Friends of the Moor

Total project cost £1,150	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £800
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The Friends group wish to purchase children's play equipment and oversized games such as Connect 4 and Jenga for National Play Day primarily, but also for future events. They had previously called on the services and equipment from Knutsford Leisure Centre but are no longer able to receive this support. They have made a small contribution themselves and from sponsorship but have not approached the town council or other funding sources. It is recommended they are awarded £800 on condition of supplying a copy of their safeguarding policy.

Macclesfield Art Group

Total project cost £1,192	Amount requested £692	Amount Awarded £692
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The art group wish to refresh their visual identity to appeal to a contemporary audience by updating their publicity materials and developing new communication channels. They are contributing almost half of the costs from their own fundraising. It is recommended they are awarded £692 on condition of supplying a copy of their safeguarding policy.

Parish Plan Implementation Group

Total project cost £1,600	Amount requested £800	Declined
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The Group have operated a community bus service for the last 2 years using an ex CEC vehicle. They have now encountered a problem with the engine with repairs estimated between £800 and £1,600. They have £800 themselves and are requesting £800 from the Council. They have been granted a new vehicle that may not arrive until the end of the year and wish to repair this vehicle to sell and invest the money into the scheme. The Community Grants Scheme does not cover running costs, which repairs to vehicles are classed as, therefore it is recommended the application is declined.

Samaritans Crewe

Total project cost £480	Amount requested £400	Amount Awarded £400
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The Samaritans use a laptop to train new volunteers and retrain existing volunteers. Their current laptop is now out-of-date and unreliable and they are seeking funding to purchase a new laptop. It is recommended they are awarded £400 on condition of supplying a copy of their constitution and safeguarding policy

Wishing Well

Total project cost £930	Amount requested £930	Amount Awarded £500
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Wishing Well are applying to run a 6 week yoga and dance class for people with depression, anxiety and isolation as part of a wider programme of activity culminating in a performance at Tatton Park. They are not contributing themselves and do not have any other contributions. It is recommended they are awarded £500 on condition of securing the remaining project costs and supplying a copy of their constitution and safeguarding policy.

3.3 Facilities:

Audlem Public Hall Committee

Total project cost £707,547	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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The committee wish to build an annexe to the village hall to provide changing rooms, a gym, youth club, medical room and a lounge and dining area. They have secured £607k from the Big Lottery, along with a number of donations from groups using the hall. They are requesting funding from ourselves to purchase furniture and curtains for the senior citizens lounge and dining area which will be used as a day club. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000

Church Minshull Village Hall

Total project cost £6,039	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £3,000
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The village hall wishes to replace their current heating system, which they can no longer purchase parts for, with a more efficient system. It is a well used hall with a number of community groups hiring the facilities. They are contributing themselves but do not have any other contributions. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000 on condition of securing the remaining project costs.

Congleton Community Partnership

Total project cost £19,050	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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The Partnership are developing the Old Saw Mill for community use and are requesting funding to install a kitchen and prepare a processing room for the apple juice and cider production. As a start-up organisation this is the first time they have applied to the scheme. They are contributing themselves, have other grants and a donation from the town council. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000

Eaton with Hulme Walfield PCC

Total project cost £87,840	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The church wish to complete phase 2 of improvement works to upgrade facilities for the community. This will include an extension to the entrance hall, separate meeting room, improved kitchen and replacing flat roof. They have previously received £30,000 from the community grants scheme and Giveback fund for the first phase and with limited funds it is recommended the application is declined.

Elworth Methodist Church

Total project cost £98,000	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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The church wishes to install a coffee shop and improved entrance to increase their community offering. They already have a number of groups that use the building, with activities taking place every day, and wish to increase this. They have raised over half of the project costs and have applied to the town council and other funders but have a shortfall of £29k. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000 on condition of receiving the full project costs and supplying a copy of their constitution and safeguarding policy.

Macclesfield Town Football Club

Total project cost £30,898	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The football club wish to install better heating and insulation in their community room as it is currently unusable in the winter. As a private limited company they are not eligible to apply to the scheme and it is recommended the application is declined.

Mere & Tabley Community Club

Total project cost £281,266	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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This newly formed community club has been created through the merger of Mere Parish Club and Tabley Parish Club, following the demolition of Tabley Club due to the A556 by-pass construction. They are now looking to build an extension to the building to accommodate more

groups and users. They have funding from Highways England, substantial amounts of own fundraising and are seeking funding from other sources as well as continuing to fundraise. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000

New Life Church

Total project cost £55,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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The church wishes to build an extension to provide an additional room which will house up to 50 people. They have made a number of improvements to their community building which is very well used by a number of community groups and provides community facilities open to all. They are contributing themselves, have donations and a grant but have not applied to the town council. They have applied year on year since 2009 and have received a number of large grants from Cheshire East and with limited resources it is recommended the application is declined.

Shavington Youth Centre

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £4,000	Declined
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The youth centre wish to install a stage, seating and lighting to help generate an income and become self-sustaining. They are donating themselves but cannot ask the parish council as they are contributing to another project. As the youth centre was awarded a grant in the previous round they are not eligible to apply again in this financial year, therefore it is recommended the application is declined.

St Matthew's Haslington

Total project cost £26,410	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £3,000
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The church wishes to refurbish its kitchen as part of their plans of becoming a community hub and hosting more community activity. They are contributing themselves and have donations but have not applied elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000 and asked to approach the parish council and other funding sources.

St Michael's Church

Total project cost £8,437	Amount requested £4,887	Declined
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The church are looking to install an electronic winch and pulley system for their chandeliers which are used for burning candles for services, concert events and weddings in the church. They are contributing themselves, have funds from ticket sales and have applied to the Town Council, which isn't shown on their application form and, if successful, would reduce the required grant to £2,887. Whilst they do have community activity in the church the project will primarily benefit the church goers. It is recommended the application is declined and information is provided on organisations that specifically fund church activities and restoration.

Visyon

Total project cost £8,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Visyon Congleton has been completing work in Crewe, in the building occupied by Cheshire Without Abuse. Due to high demand for their service they have negotiated exclusive use of a section of the building and wish to refurbish the area on offer. This would include decorating, new flooring and doors, electric heaters, replacement toilet and sink and small kitchen area. They have in-kind donations but are not contributing financially themselves and have not applied elsewhere. The Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants states that for projects on buildings, including refurbishment, the applicant must either own the building or a lease for at least 5 years. As they are operating on a rolling annual lease it is recommended the application is declined.

Wincle St Michael's PCC

Total project cost £50,000	Amount requested £4,897	Amount Awarded £4,200
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The church wish to reorder their building to provide more community activity by installing a disabled toilet, moving their kitchenette, enlarging the porch and access facilities and erecting partitions and mezzanine floor. They are requesting the funding as third party funding as part of their WREN bid and a contribution towards their architect fees. The funding from WREN has not been confirmed, they do not have contributions from their own fundraising or any other sources. It is recommended they are awarded the third party costs of £4,200 on condition of receiving the WREN funding and asked to look at other funding sources.

Wrenbury Village Hall Trust

Total project cost £680	Amount requested £680	Amount Awarded £340
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The trust wish to redecorate both of their halls, kitchen, toilets and stage as it is currently 'scruffy'. They have not contributed themselves or sought other funding. It is recommended they are awarded half of the costs at £340 on condition of securing the remaining project costs.

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:

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