

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 24th October 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 third round of grants for 2016/17 and makes recommendations totalling £47,387 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

Survive	Declined
Lindow Singers	Awarded £500
Nantwich Choral Society	Awarded £750
Macclesfield Seals Swimming Club	Awarded £800
Creative Action Team	Declined
Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Society	Awarded £500

Activities

Crewe Alexandra Ladies Football Club	Awarded £750
New Vic Theatre	Declined
Friends of Handforth Station	Awarded £1,000
Bulgarian Community Centre	Awarded £300
Cheshire East Crime Prevention Panel	Declined
Cheshire Schools Football Association	Declined
Nantwich Museum Trust Limited	Awarded £500

Facilities

Mobberley Victory Hall	Awarded £5,000
St James the Great Parish Church	Declined
Mr and Mrs Lee	Declined
Congleton Town Football Club	Awarded £5,000
Crewe Bowling Club	Awarded £2,500
Bollington Arts Centre	Awarded £5,000
Macclesfield Community Artspace	Awarded £5,000

Poynton Youth & Community Centre	Declined
Sparkallot	Awarded £2,000
What's Happening on North Street	Declined
Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall	Awarded £3,000
St John's Community Centre	Awarded £5,000
Sandbach Community Football Centre	Awarded £4,000
St John's Methodist church	Declined
Nantwich Elim Church	Awarded £2,500
Barthomley Village Hall	Awarded £3,287

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Survive

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Funding requested for the two-day Survivor Art Exhibition on 29th October. The Exhibition will feature works of art produced by survivors of abuse and will take place on the organisation's premises. As the event will take place before applicants will be informed of decision outcomes this is a retrospective application and cannot therefore be funded. It is recommended the application is declined.

Lindow Singers

Total project cost £600	Amount requested £600	Awarded £500
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The Lindow Singers give four concerts per annum which are open to the general public. Funding requested towards purchase of music and advertising in order to increase people attending concerts and joining as members. They are contributing from their own fundraising, and have a grant and expected income from ticket sales to cover their annual costs. It is recommended they are awarded £500.

Nantwich Choral Society

Total project cost £11,345	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £750
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Funding requested towards cost of hiring a professional orchestra and soloists for a performance at Nantwich Civic Hall. They have funding secured from other sources and an expected income from ticket sales. Any shortfall will be recovered from society funds. It is recommended they are awarded £750

Macclesfield Seals Swimming Club

Total project cost £2,045	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £800
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Macclesfield Seals Disabled Swimming Club is 60 years old in April 2017 and wish to celebrate with an event at Macclesfield Town Hall, which will also be used to recruit new volunteers. They have funding from other sources and an expected income from ticket sales. It is recommended they are awarded £800

Creative Action Team

Total project cost £925	Amount requested £925	Declined
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Creative Action Team wish to hold a Christmas Fun Open Day at a barn for a farm based, Christmas themed experience for disadvantaged families in Crewe. It is recommended this application is declined as outings, day trips, refreshments and accommodation cannot be funded.

Alderley and Wilmslow Musical Theatre Society

Total project cost £32,897	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £500
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The grant is required towards production costs for 'White Christmas' (seasonal musical) which provides performing opportunities for a wide range of local people. The grant would supplement income generated from a number of other sources (tickets sales, fundraising, other grants). Sponsorship and funding from parish/town council not yet confirmed. It is recommended they are awarded £500 on the condition they secure the remaining project costs and supply the monitoring information from their previous grant.

3.2 Activities:

Crewe Alexandra Ladies Football Club

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £750
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Crewe Alexandra LFC wish to create a project for females in the local community to engage in fitness and sports to increase self confidence and improve health. They are also looking to engage with different cultures to improve community cohesion, in addition to targeted sessions for specific age groups to look at reducing anti-social behaviour amongst those who may feel disengaged in the local community. It is recommended they are awarded £750 on condition of securing the remaining project costs.

New Vic Theatre

Total project cost £13,340	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Tale Trail is a theatrical experience at the New Vic Theatre for children and parents. Those most affected by economic and cultural deprivation in Crewe will be targeted through children's centres and existing partnerships. The programme aims to raise literacy levels and expectations. Cheshire Community Foundation have offered to fund 50% of the project. The shortfall will be met through fundraising and if necessary by the charity reserves. It is recommended the application is declined as the organisation is not based in Cheshire East and other organisations in Cheshire East are working with families within local theatre settings.

Friends of Handforth Station

Total project cost £12,750	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £1,000
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The Friends request funding towards a permanent welcome archways sculptures as a Gateway to Handforth, the first art trail to and through the village which will be seen by passers by and rail passengers. They have secured funding through fundraising, parish council and a number of grant giving organisations. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Bulgarian Community Centre

Total project cost £1,600	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £300
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Funding requested to promote awareness of Bulgarian culture by setting up a football team and hosting music and dance groups in original national costume. The application has been made with an individuals bank account and they are currently in the process of establishing a bank account for the organisation. They also want to offer a support service by offering language lessons. Contact needs to be made between applicant and a prominent member of the Bulgarian community (who has put in a PB bid for regular Bulgarian folk dance sessions) via the Council's Community Development Team, to encourage joint working. It is recommended they are awarded £300 towards the football team, on condition of supplying a constitution, safeguarding policy and proof of a bank account in the organisation name.

Cheshire East Crime Prevention Panel

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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The Panel request funding to purchase resources/literature that promotes crime prevention messages. No other funding has been secured or applied for. The application has been made by a CEC employee and appears to be supporting the work of partner organisations with only 4 members / participants. It is recommended the application is declined.

Cheshire Schools Football Association

Total project cost £780	Amount requested £280	Declined
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Applicant has applied and received funding year on year since 2011, only having being declined once in 2013. They have secured £500 for this project through sponsorship. It is recommended the application is declined as grants are classed as one-off and should not be seen as repeat funding.

Nantwich Museum Trust Limited

Total project cost £1,038	Amount requested £938	Amount Awarded £500
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Nantwich Museum wish to develop a child/family friendly area within the museum. Equipment includes seating, a storage/display unit, baby changing unit, coat stand and replica handling objects. It is recommended they are awarded £500 on condition they secure the remaining project costs.

3.3 Facilities:

Mobberley Victory Hall

Total project cost £25,000	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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Mobberley Victory Hall has limited access and the toilets need a revamp to include installing disabled toilets - residents are currently unable to access the facility and activities that take place within it due to the access issues. They have secured funding from the Big Lottery and are applying to Manchester Airport Community Fund. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000 on condition that they secure the remaining project costs.

St James The Great Parish Church, Congleton

Total project cost £20,508	Amount requested £3,000	Declined
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The current heating system has broken down on several occasions and spare parts can no longer be obtained. The church cannot be used to hold services or concerts in winter months without heating. They have secured funding from other sources and have other pending grant applications. It is recommended the application is declined as the project benefits the congregation rather than the community as a whole. Information to be provided on alternative funding specifically for Churches.

Mr and Mrs Lee

Total project cost £42,000	Amount requested £	Declined
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Application appears to be from an individual who is not part of a community or voluntary group. The bank account details have not been provided and they have not supplied the required documents. It is recommended the application is declined and support is given in establishing a social enterprise or similar community organisation.

Congleton Town Football Club

Total project cost £37,973	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Congleton Town Football Club wish to repair the clubhouse roof which has been damaged by heavy rainfall in the autumn/winter of 2015/16. Currently the clubhouse cannot be used due to water ingress. The Football Association have recently approved a grant of £32,909 on the condition they secure the balance of £5,064. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000

Crewe Bowling Club

Total project cost £4,507	Amount requested £4,500	Amount Awarded £2,500
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Funding requested to replace deteriorating wood in the surrounding gully which would improve the health and safety of members and visitors using the green. The majority of people using the green are above retirement age and have impaired movement and mobility. Although they have applied for £4,500, they have applied for £1,000 from the town/parish council and have £1,000 in existing fund raising. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500 on the condition that they secure the remaining costs.

Bollington Arts Centre

Total project cost £70,895	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Project involves the upgrade of a fire door, new security system, canopies over new doorways, and replacement of auditorium windows to make more efficient use of the building and to attract more users. They have secured funding of £14,000 with £43,500 pending, shortfall would be met by BAC. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000 on the condition that they secure the remaining costs.

Macclesfield Community Artspace

Total project cost £8,400	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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Macclesfield Community Artspace seek funding towards a portable covered stage which they will store and make available to hire in the Macclesfield and surrounding area, for free or for low costs. They have secured a grant and have an expected income from ticket sales. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000 and support is given to ensure the stage is made available for the local community to hire and benefit from this new resource.

Poynton Youth & Community Centre

Total project cost £71,870	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Restoration of Poynton Community Centre is a major project broken down into a number of phases (they had a CG in August 2015 for £4,000 - monitoring information has been provided). This award would be used to install damp proofing in the 1838 part of the Community Centre repairs to plasterwork and the installation of an improved heating system. Funding of £66,340 has already been secured. It is recommended the application is declined as this is the same project previously funded.

Sparkallot

Total project cost £4,000	Amount requested £2,000	Awarded £2,000
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Funding required for specialist removal of large trees and lower the canopy of smaller trees, which can then be managed by allotment holders in the future and will allow the letting of currently un-let plots. The allotment community group comprises 30 ploholders some of which are facing social isolation, mental health/physical health/age/mobility issues and a group from a local High School and College. Half of the project costs have been secured from the town council. It is recommended they are awarded £2,000.

What's Happening on North Street

Total project cost £8,516	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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New building design involved installing sub partitions to maximise usage and have different activities on site at the same time. This application is for air conditioning and climate control system to allow for separate temperature controls within the meeting room space as currently there is an enclosed space without natural air flow. Feedback from users is that they are reluctant to use the space as the temperature is uncomfortable. As a £30,000 Giveback grant was awarded in 2015 it is recommended the application is declined due to the amount of funding previously granted for this project.

Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall

Total project cost £4,310	Amount requested £4,310	Awarded £3,000
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Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall wish to replace their windows as currently the windows are single pane and heat is being lost. Hall bookings are low in winter time due to the challenge of keeping the venue at an ambient temperature. Full project costs requested but the Village Hall Committee have a comprehensive programme of fundraising events and activities that take place throughout the year and the next two events are expected to generate £700. It is recommended they are awarded £3,000 on condition they secure the remaining project costs.

St John's Community Centre

Total project cost £15,000	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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Application deferred from previous round. St John's wish to install a new community kitchen for the community to engage in healthy cooking and training as well as the running of breakfast clubs. They are contributing themselves and have a contribution from the town council but still have an outstanding balance of £7,000. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000 on condition of securing the remaining project costs.

Sandbach Community Football Centre

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £4,000
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The grant is required to make improvements to the grass pitch so it can be used as an extra training pitch during the evenings and weekends. This will allow more people to use the facility, increasing sporting opportunities and for members and making it possible to hold more community events and non football functions. They are not contributing themselves and have not secured any other funding. It is recommended they are awarded £4,000 on condition they secure the remaining project costs.

St John's Methodist Church

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Funding requested for new seating in the refurbished church (approx 80 chairs). They run a pre-school from their premises and the church runs a mums and tots group and a tea club for the elderly. They were awarded a £15,000 Giveback grant for the refurbishment of the church and have no other funding secured for this phase of the project. It is recommended the application is declined due to previous funding given for the project. Information to be provided on alternative funding specifically for Churches.

Nantwich Elim Church

Total project cost £5,600	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £2,500
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The church are looking to purchase 180 upholstered stacking chairs and 2 trolleys for the chapel and conference centre. The church is used by a wide section of the community with activities and groups meeting on a weekly basis. They have a contribution from a donation but are not contributing themselves or applying elsewhere. It is recommended they are awarded £2500 on condition they secure the remaining project costs. Start date to be ascertained to ensure this isn't retrospective funding.

Barthomley Village Hall

Total project cost £10,274	Amount requested £3,287	Awarded £3,287
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Application for funding towards the updating of the Village Hall which is currently in a tired condition and in some areas is a safety hazard. A refreshed village hall will attract new users and existing users will benefit from improved facilities. A funding application with Cheshire Community Foundation is currently pending with funding secured from other sources. It is recommended they are awarded £3287.

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

- 8.1 The Council has the power 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 2016/17. 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 to ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.
- 8.3 Grant funding to 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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