

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 30th January 2017
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 £34,860 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

Creative Crewe	Awarded £750
Cheshire & Warrington Carers Trust	Awarded £600
Friends of Congleton Park	Declined
Macclesfield Garden Festival CIC	Awarded £750
Motherwell CIC	Awarded £800
One Five West Ltd	Awarded £700
Bollington Art Group	Awarded £700
Sandbach Transport Festival	Awarded £1,000

Activities

Treehouse	Declined
Air Cadets (Sandbach)	Awarded £500
Beechmere	Awarded £500
The Reporters Academy	Deferred
Pure Insight 1628	Declined
The Barnby Choir	Awarded £400
Age UK Cheshire East	Declined
Evolve: Tackling Substance Abuse	Awarded £1,000
1nclu5ive Sandbach	Awarded £1,000
Macclesfield and District Cardiac Support Group	Awarded £500
Backbeat A Cappella	Awarded £500

Facilities

New Life Church	Declined
SLS Gymnastics Club	Awarded £700
Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters	Awarded £2,000
Cheshire Scouts Activity Centre	Awarded £5,000
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Awarded £4,000
Audlem and District Bowling Club	Awarded £3,960
Sandbach Gymnastic Supporters	Awarded £5,000
Nantwich Players	Declined
Alsager Gardens Association	Awarded £1,000
Ford Lane Allotments	Awarded £1,000
Just Drop In	Awarded £2,500

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Events:

Creative Crewe

Total project cost £1,150	Amount requested £850	Awarded £750
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Two events merged into one for 2017: The Easter Eggstravaganza (children) and Spring into Action (adults) will take place at Queen's Park on 19/03/17. Spring into Action links adults with organisations looking for members/volunteers/fundraisers and with groups who promote hobbies and interests in the area. Other activities include Easter egg hunt, craft activities and local musicians and dancers for children. They are contributing themselves. Community Grant of £750 awarded in Jan 2015 - monitoring info not provided. It is recommended they are awarded £750 on condition of returning their monitoring information for their previous grant.

Cheshire and Warrington Carers Trust

Total project cost £930	Amount requested £730	Awarded £600
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Funding requested towards an event during Carers Week 2017 aimed at recognising and supporting parent carers, those caring for a child or young person who has a disability. The event will provide opportunities for families to try taster activities and have some fun. Local and national charities and service providers will be invited to showcase their services. They have £200 of their own fundraising and are a first time applicant. It is recommended they are awarded £600 as a contribution towards materials and publicity but room hire cannot be funded. It is awarded on condition of supplying a signed constitution and safeguarding policy.

Friends of Congleton Park

Total project cost £2,470	Amount requested £500	Declined
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The group are requesting funding towards a free annual community event consisting of brass bands, choirs and youth bands in Congleton Park. Community Grant of £500 awarded in April 2015 for the same event. It is recommended the application is declined as repeat funding cannot be granted.

Macclesfield Garden Festival CIC

Total project cost £4,900	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £750
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Macclesfield Garden Festival wishes to bring together a number of schools in Macclesfield with businesses and professional artists, landscapers and garden designers to work on the 'Yarn Tree Project'. There will be a planter competition, to brighten up the streets for 10 days in spring, in addition to the Landscape and Sculpture Show at Christchurch gardens and the Floral Art & Sculpture Show inside Christchurch. First time applicant. They have projected income from ticket sales and sponsorship. It is recommended they are awarded £750

LGBT Jamboree

Total project cost £1,715	Amount requested £900	Awarded £800
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Funding requested towards a conference/fun day, focusing on LGBT parents and their families and informing others on how LGBT couples can become parents and the help available to them. They are asking for room hire (which cannot be funded), advertising materials, guest speakers and children's entertainment. Community grant of £500 awarded in January 2016. Monitoring info submitted. It is recommended they are awarded £800 on condition they secure full project costs.

One Five West Ltd

Total project cost £1,550	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £700
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Tales of the Town is a community project, based in Trafford, collecting oral histories from residents in Bollington and transforming them into interactive, digital storytelling objects in a public art exhibition. Funding is required for a free public exhibition (1st - 4th June) towards advertising and materials/equipment (room hire and donations cannot be funded). First time applicant. It is recommended they are awarded £700

Bollington Art Group

Total project cost £1,200	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £700
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The Group hold an annual art exhibition and wish to replace their display panels. They do not charge entry and funds raised during the event are donated to local charities. They have a small contribution from the parish council but do not have any other contributions. It is recommended they are awarded £700 on condition of supplying their constitution and safeguarding policy.

Sandbach Transport Festival

Total project cost £2,500	Amount requested £1,500	Awarded £1,000
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This is an annual event which has been running for 27 years. To encourage more families they wish to include an arts workshop, working with local schools, community and uniformed groups to create a parade. They are donating themselves and have some in-kind donations too. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 on condition of supplying their constitution and safeguarding policy.

3.2 Activities:

Treehouse

Total project cost £2,550	Amount requested £500	Declined
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Funding required towards a new laptop for admin and accounting, and also for advertising and promotional materials. Funding of £2,100 already secured through tickets sales, donations and Public Health Grant. First time applicant. It is recommended they are declined and information provided on a number of organisations that provide free or reduced price computers for charities.

Air Cadets (Sandbach)

Total project cost £1,098	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £500
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Funding required to purchase and install 2 wall mounted Smart TV's so the 40 plus Cadets can receive interactive training and development in the field of avionics, engineering, maths etc. Giveback funding of £1,000 awarded in 2015. Monitoring information submitted. They are only contributing £98 themselves and do not have contributions from any other organisations. It is recommended they are awarded £500 and asked to apply to the Town Council and other funders. Offer made on the condition they secure full project costs.

Beechmere

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Amount Awarded £500
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Funding requested for a facilitator to provide weekly sessions on mindfulness: ways to reduce anxiety, stress and pain management through movement, meditation and group discussion. The project is aimed at residents and older people in the wider community who may experience pain, panic and anxiety and offers them a coping mechanism. First time applicant. No other funding secured. It is recommended they are awarded £500 and asked to apply to the Town Council and other funders. Offer made on condition of supplying their constitution and safeguarding policy.

The Reporters Academy

Total project cost £14,000	Amount requested £1,000	Deferred
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The Reporters' Academy are requesting funding towards their project for 5 young people from Cheshire East to have scholarships on a year long training course, qualifying them as members of The Reporters' Academy. They will receive employability, work-readiness training; media and film-making workshops, learn to interview, record, film, edit footage and gain employability. First time applicant, based in Salford. The training will be in 2017 half terms so the Feb half term couldn't be funded as retrospective. It is not clear whether they are linked in with our Virtual School Team therefore it is recommended the application is deferred pending more information.

Pure Insight 1628

Total project cost £45,377	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Insightful Mentoring is a bespoke mentoring programme for young care leavers. Volunteer mentors are recruited from the local community and undergo a 10 week training and assessment process. Mentors are then matched to a young person who has left statutory care and commit to supporting the young person every week over a minimum of 2 years.

£42,631 of funding secured from Big Lottery. First time applicant. As they are applying for salaries, refreshments and expenses which cannot be funded it is recommended they are declined.

The Barnby Choir

Total project cost £1,573	Amount requested £400	Awarded £400
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Funding required towards the cost of music and hire of 3 professional pianists and a percussionist. Projected income from ticket sales £875, own fund raising £250. Grant of £300 received December 2014. Monitoring info submitted. It is recommended they are awarded £400

Age UK Cheshire East

Total project cost £53,214	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Age UK are asking for a contribution towards their Men in Sheds project. With total project costs of £53,214 and no other funding secured it is recommended the application is declined.

Evolve: Tackling Substance Abuse

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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Evolve wish to provide an information service for young people regarding substance and drug abuse. The grant will enable 10 sessions to be delivered reaching up to 1,000 young people and information provided in schools, youth clubs and community facilities. They are funding half of the project costs themselves. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

1nclu5ive Sandbach

Total project cost £2,350	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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The group wish to raise awareness of Disabled Access Day and encourage disabled people to visit Sandbach, promote accessible businesses and encourage business owners to become

more accessible as well as raising awareness of local accessibility issues and barriers to inclusion. They are contributing themselves, have in-kind contributions and have not applied to the fund previously. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000.

Macclesfield and District Cardiac Support Group

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £500
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The group wish to raise awareness of their activities and to attract new members through a leaflet drop and open day and also to cover overheads. New members will help the group to become more sustainable in the future. They do not have any contributions themselves or support from elsewhere. As we cannot fund overheads it is recommended they are awarded £500 and asked to approach the Town Council and other funders.

Backbeat A Cappella

Total project cost £1,000	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £500
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As a new chorus they wish to develop into a competing and performing chorus and would like to have external coaching. They are requesting the cost of the coach and expenses. As expenses cannot be covered and they are not contributing from their own funds or other organisations it is recommended they are awarded £500.

3.3 Facilities:

New Life Church

Total project cost £2,000	Amount requested £1,000	Declined
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Replacement computer for Sound Room - audio-visual PC - to control the large screen content in the Main Hall which also involves internet, DVD, cameras etc. Existing computer is no longer fit for purpose and cannot handle multiple demands such as internet streaming, music or other applications. A donated or refurbished computer would not be adequate. They have £500 from their own funding raising. £26,750 of funding from Community Grants scheme since 2009/10 with the previous grant application declined due to large amount of previous funding. It is recommended they are declined due to the amount of funding previously granted.

SLS Gymnastic Club

Total project cost £1,700	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £700
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Having invested in new equipment the group wish to safely store it. They have been given access to a room by Sir William Stanier school but cannot access it from the sports centre and need to make modifications. They are contributing themselves and are a first time applicant. It is recommended they are awarded £700.

Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adopters (SUMBA)

Total project cost £3,820	Amount requested £3,620	Awarded £2,000
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Reaseheath College are renovating an office building adjacent to Cholmondeston Clay Pit with volunteers from SUMBA. SUMBA wish to assist with the renovation costs, installation of picnic table, interpretation board and hut display, along with acknowledgement plaques and tree and shrub planting. They are only contributing £200 towards the project and do not have contributions from other sources. They received a grant in Feb 2015. It is recommended they are awarded £2,000 on condition of securing the full project costs.

Cheshire Scouts Activity Centre

Total project cost £8,400	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £5,000
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The County Scout Council wish to install a Crate Stacking activity, which is a team building activity, with costs for the professionally installed crate stack, helmets, crates and harnesses and leader training, at the scout activity centre in Tatton Park. They are contributing £3,400 of their own fundraising and have not applied previously. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Total project cost £6,465	Amount requested £4,965	Amount Awarded £4,000
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The Trust wish to purchase a bespoke shipping container complete with windows, personnel doors, work benches and timber cladding to offer a long term sustainable solution to the problem of transporting tools for their work parties in Cheshire East from their headquarters in Malpas. The Trust manage 20 nature reserves in Cheshire East and work with a huge number of volunteers. The new 'Eco Hub' will also enable the volunteers to work on their own, without Trust staff present and assist them in becoming self sustaining. They have secured a HLF grant of £1,500 but do not have other contributions. It is recommended they are awarded £4,000.

Audlem and District Bowling Club

Total project cost £9,960	Amount requested £3,960	Awarded £3,960
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The club need to replace their 40 year old lighting columns due to corrosion at the base and in the upper parts of the masts. They would like to install LED lights which will be more cost effective and reduce their environmental impact. They are contributing themselves and have applied to the parish council. It is recommended they are awarded £3,960 on condition of securing the full project costs.

Sanbach Gymnastic Supporters

Total project cost £33,600	Amount requested £5,000	Amount Awarded £5,000
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The Club has 600 members with around 400 on a waiting list and have secured a gift for the purchase of a new facility for the Club. The new facility is twice the size of the old one and will allow for another 500 members as well as expanding and adding new classes. They have already raised substantial funds for new equipment and have applied to both their Town Council and The Lottery. They received a community grant in 2015. It is recommended they are awarded £5,000 on condition of securing the full project costs.

Nantwich Players

Total project cost £5,000	Amount requested £5,000	Declined
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Nantwich Players have recently refurbished their foyer to alleviate overcrowding, at a cost of £60k. They now wish to modernise the public toilets at a cost of £5k but already have a shortfall of around £9k of additional costs arising from the Foyer Project. They secured funding from the town council and a loan for the first phase so do not have additional funds to add to this element of the project. It is recommended the application is declined and they are invited to reapply once their foyer project is fully completed.

Alsager Gardens Association

Total project cost £4,726	Amount requested £1,000	Awarded £1,000
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The Association installed disabled toilets at their Cedar Avenue and Lawton Road sites, which have been very popular but the paths at both sites are rough and uneven which is causing problems for users. They wish to install new paths and raised beds at both sites. They are contributing themselves and have applied for another grant. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 on condition of securing the full project costs.

Ford Lane Allotments

Total project cost £3,558	Amount requested £3,558	Awarded £1,000
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The group wish to improve their toilet facilities by adding a prefabricated vanity unit with male and female facilities. The group are not contributing themselves and do not have contributions from other organisations. It is recommended they are awarded £1,000 and asked to apply to the Town Council and other funders.

Just Drop In

Total project cost £8,450	Amount requested £5,000	Awarded £2,500
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The group wish to upgrade their toilets which are functional but unpleasant. The group has a lot of service users and the facilities no longer meet the individuals needs, particularly those with mobility issues. They are contributing £3,440 themselves but do not have contributions from other organisations. It is recommended they are awarded £2,500 and asked to apply to the Town Council and other funders.

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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