

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Communities

Date of Meeting: 24th April 2017
Report of: Principal Manager – Partnerships & Communities
Subject/Title: Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Bates

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To highlight a number of changes made to the Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants for the financial year of 2017/18.
- 1.2 The majority of the changes are minor, however attention is drawn to the removal of the Community-Led Planning Grants category as applications to this category have not been made since 2014/15, when only 1 application was made.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To adopt the amended Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants for the financial year of 2017/18.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The amended Policy for the Allocation of Community Grants 2017/18 needs adopting to allow the continuation of the scheme throughout the financial year of 2017/18.

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 There are no negative policy implications.

7.0 Financial Implications (authorised by Chief Operating Officer)

- 7.1 Community grants made under the Policy will be funded within existing budget provision for the Council's Community Grants Scheme.

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 The Policy for the Allocation of Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations 2017/18 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.
- 8.4 A competitive grants process is an open, transparent and fair means to afford all eligible organisations the opportunity to compete for and obtain grant funding from the Council. It is a means to distribute limited resources amongst such organisations and to support and encourage the introduction of new community initiatives.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 The risk of not agreeing an approach to funding the community, voluntary and faith 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: Community Resilience Manager
Tel No: 01270 685811
Email: tina.jones@cheshireeast.gov.uk