



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate
Change: Councillor Tim Ward
Report by: Jackie Hanson, Operations & Resources Manager
Relevant scrutiny Environment Scrutiny 14/1/2014
committee: Committee
Wards affected: All Wards

SUSTAINABLE CITY GRANTS 2014-15

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations for 2014-15 Sustainable City grant funding to voluntary and not for profit organisations and seeks approval for an efficient and consistent approach across the authority for the approval of grant awards.
- 1.2 The report also outlines plans to review Sustainable City grants.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the recommendations for Sustainable City grants to voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in 2014-15 as set out in Appendix A of this report, subject to confirmation of the Council's 2014-15 budget in February 2014 and, in some cases, to the provision of further information from applicants.
- 2.2 To approve the increase in delegated powers relating to the approval of sustainable city grant awards as follows:
 - § Awards up to and including £5,000 to be approved by officers
 - § Awards from £5,001- £10,000 to be approved by the Executive Councillor inviting comments from the Chair and Spokes of the relevant scrutiny committee
 - § Awards above £10,000 to be approved by the Executive Councillor following consideration by the relevant scrutiny committee

- 2.3 Officers carry out a review of the Sustainable City grants as set out in section 3.8 of this report and report back to this committee in June/July 2014 with recommendations about future budgets and funding priorities and arrangements.

3. Background

- 3.1 In January 2011 the Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change approved the following after a review of the Sustainable City grants:
- § The budget for Sustainable City grants be rationalised into a single project based budget of £50,000
 - § There is a maximum £5,000 award towards projects
 - § The management and administration of this budget to transfer to the grants team in the Community Development Service
 - § The grants process to be aligned to those used in Community Development for other Council grants budgets
- 3.2 Officers in Community Development and Corporate Strategy, with experience on the grants and the environmental objectives, work closely together to promote, support and assess grant applications.
- 3.3 The funding priorities, which link to the Council’s Climate Change Strategy 2013 -16, are as follows:

Tackle the causes and consequences of climate change
§ Reduce carbon dioxide emissions
§ Manage climate change risks
Minimise waste
§ Reduce the amount of waste generated
§ Increase waste reuse, recycling, and composting
Protect the local environment
§ Reduce pollution of air, water and land
§ Protect and enhance local wildlife

- 3.4 The Sustainable City grants for 2014-15 were publicised with a closing date of 3rd October. Detailed assessments on all of the applications were undertaken looking at:
- § How the priorities are met and what outcomes are expected
 - § Who the beneficiaries are, how many and where they are from
 - § The evidence of need, partners involved in the project, and consultation undertaken
 - § How projects will be measured and monitored

- § Whether the organisation meets the eligibility criteria
- § The amount requested in relation to the total cost of the project and anticipated benefit to city residents

3.5 A chart of applications and proposed awards for Sustainable City grant funding 2014-15 is attached as Appendix 1. The budget is summarised as follows:

2014-15 Priorities and Funds	Available £	Offers £	Balance £
Sustainable City Grants	50,000	21,855	28,145

- 3.6 A one-off reduction in the Sustainable City grants for 2014/15 of £20,000 will be made representing unallocated funds following the annual grants round. The remaining £8,145 will be available for organisations to apply for in accordance with the eligibility criteria. Officers will continue to promote this funding and applications will be considered on an individual basis until the budget has been spent.
- 3.7 Current year, 2013-14, funding and monitoring information for 2012-13 is summarised in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 It is proposed that a review of Sustainable City grants is undertaken in the spring considering:
- § possible reductions to the budget from £50k to £30k
 - § moving from a grant to commissioning approach to achieve the climate change strategic priorities
- Consultation will be undertaken in line with the Cambridgeshire Compact and a report brought back to this committee in June/July 2014 with recommendations about future budgets and funding priorities and arrangements from 2015-16 onwards.

4. Implications

- (a) Financial Implications - as detailed in the report
- (b) Staffing Implications - none
- (c) Equal Opportunities Implications - none
- (d) Environmental Implications - Climate change rating +H
- (e) Consultation and Communication – 3.8 above
- (f) Community Safety - grant aided projects may have a positive impact on community safety although this is not a primary outcome
- (g) Procurement – 3.8 above

5. Background papers

- § Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee report January 2011
- § Applications (not available to the public)

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Chart of Sustainable City Grant Applications and Award Recommendations 2014-15

Appendix 2 – 2013-14 Award Summary and 2012-13 Monitoring Summary

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Jackie Hanson
Author's Phone Number: 01223 - 457867
Author's Email: jackie.hanson@cambridge.gov.uk