



To: Executive Councillor for Communities:
Councillor Richard Johnson

Report by: Jackie Hanson
Community Funding & Development Manager

Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14/1/2016

Wards affected: Abbey Arbury Castle Cherry Hinton Coleridge East
Chesterton King's Hedges Market Newnham
Petersfield Queen Edith's Romsey Trumpington
West Chesterton

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2016-17

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This is the second year of the Community Grants fund for voluntary and community not-for-profit organisations. This report provides a brief overview of the eligibility criteria, support provided and process undertaken.
- 1.2 Applications received are detailed in Appendix 1, alongside recommendations for awards.
- 1.3 This report also details the budget available for Area Committee Community Grants 2016-17.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve:

- 2.1 The Community Grants to voluntary and community organisations for 2016-17, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, subject to the budget approval in February 2016 and any further satisfactory information required of applicant organisations.

3. Background

- 3.1 In July 2014 this committee considered a report detailing the review undertaken on the former Community and Arts and Recreation Development Grants recommending new priorities and outcomes under the name 'Community Grants' which was agreed by the Executive Councillor for Community, Arts and Recreation.
- 3.2 At the same committee it was agreed by the Executive Councillor that:
- The 2015-16 budget for the Community Grants be set at £900,000 subject to confirmation as part of the 2015-16 budget round
 - Once confirmed as part of the 2015-16 budget round, the Community Grants budget will be frozen for a further two years (2016-17 and 2017-18)
- 3.3 In January 2015 this committee considered the first set of applications against the new Community Grants criteria. A £75k transition fund enabled some groups to have time to adjust and prepare for the future by finding alternative funding sources or to understand the need to strengthen bids against the priorities and outcomes.
- 3.4 It will not be until the end of 2015-16 that monitoring information can be collected to help assess the difference the Community Grants have made to City residents with the highest needs in line with the new funding outcomes.
- 3.5 Time, consideration and effort were put in via 1-1 meetings, workshops and training to:
- convey the changes from the old funding stream to the new
 - specify the requirements of the new fund
 - support organisations through the change
- This work has continued throughout 2015.
- 3.6 The budget for the 2016-17 Community Grants remains at £900,000 subject to the Council's budget approval in February 2016.
- 3.7 The Area Committee Community Grants 2016-17 process remains unaltered and will be promoted in the New Year with reports being taken to each of the Area Committees in the spring. £60,000 will be available from the Community Grants budget for Area Committee grants with an additional contribution from Safer City which is to be confirmed. This fund will be allocated to each area using the agreed percentage calculated from the latest population and deprivation data.
- 3.8 The following flowchart is a reminder of the priorities and outcomes approved for the Community Grants fund 2015-18.

All applications MUST demonstrate how the funding will reduce social and/or economic inequality, by removing barriers for City residents with the most need, to enable them to access one or more of the funding priorities:

Funding Priorities

- **Sporting activities**
 - **Arts and cultural activities**
 - **Community development activities**
 - **Legal and/or financial advice***
 - **Employment support**
- or**
- **Capacity building of the voluntary sector to achieve the above**

* Organisations applying to give legal advice and support must have The Advice Quality Standard (AQS) or equivalent.



Primary Outcome

Reduce social and/or economic inequality for City residents with the highest needs



As well as the primary outcome, your activity must achieve one or more of the following strategic outcomes:

Strategic Outcomes

- **Improved health and wellbeing**
- **Communities come together and bring about change**
- **More people have better opportunities to gain employment**
- **Stronger voluntary sector in the city**

- 3.9 Last year (2015-16) we received a higher than anticipated number of applications which did not meet funding criteria, including some from BAME groups. We have taken time to explain and clarify that applicants have to reason why the funds need to tackle inequality, detail the activity and budget they want funding for, demonstrate the organisation needs our funding and that the activity meets our priorities and outcomes. This has been done by:
- attending group committee meetings
 - one to one meetings on highlighted issues
 - training sessions
 - three application workshops held jointly with Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS)
 - three application workshops held by the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) specifically for BAME groups
 - Application Guide detailing the priorities, outcomes and eligibility criteria
 - Application Help Notes giving guidance on requirements question by question
 - CCVS and CECF offered one to one sessions on applications
 - city staff offered one to one sessions and contacts for specific priority areas
 - factsheets and templates
 - signposting
- 3.10 It is important to note that even though organisations were encouraged to engage with us for help and support with their applications some chose not to and some applications were received which did not meet the basic criteria of the fund, requesting funds for non-targeted activity.
- 3.11 The 2016-17 Community Grants opened in August for applications and closed on 2nd October 2015. A communications and publicity plan was implemented including a press release, newsletter articles, emails, networks and targeted conversations.
- 3.12 The Community Grants fund continues to accept Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) applications that meet the funding priorities, outcomes and eligibility criteria. The DRR application documentation was adjusted to enable consistent assessment of all applications received.
- 3.13 DRR applications to this fund will need to be kept under review to ensure it responds to any changes in Business Rates policy, in relation to the national Business Rates review, and currently represents good value for money with this budget having to find 40% of any award made under the Business Rate Retention Scheme. As no significant

change was proposed for 2016-17 an additional report was not required.

- 3.14 All applications were assessed against the same assessment matrix developed around the priorities and outcome used last year. Officers undertaking assessments were briefed on the process to help gain a consistent approach. These assessments were then moderated by strategy officer meetings informing the award recommendations detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.15 The Executive Councillor attended a meeting with officers to review the process and outcomes.
- 3.16 Where no funding is proposed it will be due to one or more of the following not being adequately met:
- grant scheme priorities
 - grant scheme outcomes
 - identifying need
 - quality or viability of the project
- or
- proposals were the remit of another service or organisation such as the County Council, Health, Housing etc
 - organisations did not demonstrate the beneficiaries could not fund the activity themselves, or that reserves could not be used to fund the activity

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

- The £900,000 Community Grants budget is subject to the Council's budget approval February 2016
- The recommended awards from the Community Grants budget are as set out in Appendix 1
- A £60k contribution from this fund is available for Area Committee Community Grants for 2016-17

(b) **Staffing Implications**

- None

(c) **Equality and Poverty Implications**

Equalities Impact Assessments were carried out as follows:

- December 2013 to inform the Community and Arts and Recreation Development grants review process.
- July 2014 in the context of the findings from the review and desktop research to inform the new Community Grants priorities and outcomes.

- January 2015 on the implementation of the Community Grants Fund 2015-16.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

- Funded organisations are expected to have or develop environmental policies.

(e) **Procurement**

- None. The Council's approach to grant aid through the Community Grants is via an application process rather than through the direct commissioning of services.

(f) **Consultation and Communication**

- As set out in the report.
- Applicants were notified when this report was published detailing recommended awards, giving an indication of proposed funding from April 2016. This adhered to the Cambridgeshire Compact framework to give three months' notice of funding changes.
- Officers will continue the process of award notification, signposting and support, and implementing and monitoring awards.

(g) **Community Safety**

- The contribution from Safer City to Area Committee Grants is to be confirmed.

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Community Grant Applications from voluntary and community organisations. NOT FOR PUBLICATION: By virtue of paragraphs 1 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (not available to the public as they contain information relating to individuals and information relating to the financial or business affairs of individuals and organisations).

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Community Grants 2016-17 Award Recommendations

7. Inspection of papers

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

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