



Item

AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS

To: West Central Area Committee – 10th March 2022
Report by: Jackie Hanson, Community Funding and Development Manager
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Wards affected: Castle, Market, Newnham

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report details applications received for 2022-2023 funding for projects in the West Central area and makes recommendations for awards. As Area Committees are meeting virtually and therefore cannot make decisions, the committee will comment on the applications and the decisions on grant awards will be made by officers after the meeting, taking into account the committee's view.
- 1.2 The report provides information on the eligibility and funding criteria and the opportunity offered for Platinum Jubilee grants for local celebrations.

2. Recommendations

The West Central Area Committee Councillors are recommended to:

- 2.1 Comment on the grant applications received and awards proposed for West Central Area Committee grants detailed in Appendix 1, in line with the Area Committee Community Grants criteria detailed in paragraph 3.4.
- 2.2 Comment on the Platinum Jubilee grant applications received for activities in the west central area and awards proposed detailed in Appendix 2.

2.3 Comment on award proposals to enable officers to make decisions on the grant awards.

3. Background

3.1 Funding has been devolved to Area Committees for local projects meeting the Community Development, Sports and Arts strategic priorities since 2004. This process is managed by the Grants Team in Community Services who promote the funding and bring applications for consideration to one meeting of each of the area committees annually.

3.2 The 2022-23 grants were publicised via neighbourhood workers, voluntary organisations, in local publications and by posters and publicity leaflets. Recent applicants were also invited to apply. Officers held a webinar briefing to explain the application process and eligibility criteria and priorities.

3.3 There is a total of £70,000 available across the four area committees for 2022-23 as detailed in the Community Grants report to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee 27th January 2022. The approved population and poverty formula calculation is set out in Appendix 2. The amount available for each area is as follows:

Committee	Community Grants %	Total available £
North	34.29%	£24,003
East	30.16%	£21,112
South	25.67%	£17,969
West Central	9.88%	£6,916
Total	100%	£70,000

3.4 Area Committee Community Grant Priorities and Outcomes

Projects and activities should have a targeted approach and make a difference to people in one of the areas (North, East, South or West Central) by reducing social or economic inequality via one of the following funding priorities:

- sporting activities
- arts and cultural activities
- community development activities
- reducing poverty activities

- legal and/or financial advice (*the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) or equivalent required*)
- employment support
- capacity building of the voluntary sector to achieve the above

3.5 Applications are invited from voluntary organisations, community groups and groupings of local residents that are able to meet basic accountability requirements.

3.6 The maximum any one organisation can apply for is £5,000 per area committee and grants cannot be made retrospectively. Full details of the eligibility criteria are available on request.

3.7 Where no funding is proposed it will be due to one or more of the following not being adequately met:

- grant scheme outcomes and/or priorities
- identifying need
- quality or viability of the project
- or
- proposals were the remit of another service/fund or organisation
- organisations did not demonstrate the beneficiaries could not fund the activity themselves, or that reserves could not be used to fund the activity

3.8 **Platinum Jubilee**

Alongside the area committee grants, local groups have been invited to apply for grants up to £500 for events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee via a simple application form. 39 Platinum Jubilee applications have been received, of which 5 are from the West Central area with a total award value of £2,365, detailed in Appendix 3. All of these applications have been recommended an award for the full amount requested.

3.9 **All awards** are subject to grant agreements and monitoring reports. We consider proportionate requirements dependent on the size of the organisation, project and award.

3.10 If the current recommendations for the West Central Area Committee and Platinum Jubilee grant awards are approved following consideration by this committee, the budget allocation for the West Central area will be increased by £9 from service project budgets to support the jubilee activities.

- 3.11 Enquiries for grants made until October will be considered should any funding become available through the return of unspent grant awards. Officers will make decisions on awards up to £5,000 as approved by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in January 2014.
- 3.12 In October 2022, any remaining community grant funding will be pooled to ensure its effective use on new enquiries for funding from the voluntary and community sector or projects to meet identified need.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: West Central Area Committee Community Grants – Applications and Recommendations 2022-23

Appendix 2: Area Committee Funding Formula

Appendix 3: West Central Area Platinum Jubilee Grants – Applications and Recommendations.

5. Inspection of papers

If you have a query on the report contact:

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