

Item

AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS

To: North Area Committee – 27th February 2023
Report by: Julie Cornwell, Community Funding and Voluntary Sector
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Wards affected: Arbury, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, West Chesterton

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report details applications received for 2023-2024 funding for projects in the North area and makes recommendations for awards.

As Area Committees are meeting virtually and therefore cannot make decisions, the committee will consider applications for Area Committee grants as per the Community Grants criteria (paragraph 3.4) which will then be referred to the Community Funding and Voluntary Sector Manager for approval.

2. Recommendations

The North Area Committee Councillors are recommended to:

- 2.1 Comment on the grant applications received and awards proposed for North Area Committee grants detailed in Appendix 1, in line with the Area Committee Community Grants criteria detailed in paragraph 3.4.

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 2023-24 grants were publicised via neighbourhood workers, voluntary organisations, social media, 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 2023-24 as detailed in the Community Grants report to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee 19th January 2023. 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	33.93%	£23,751
East	31.37%	£21,959
South	24.71%	£17,297
West Central	9.99%	£6,993
Total	100%	£70,000

A total of £76,254 of application requests were made for a North Area Committee grant. This is an unprecedented level of demand and reflects the cost-of-living crisis, ongoing impact of the pandemic (increased demand for activities and services) and shrinking of alternative funding streams.

The Grants Team identified two North Area applications that could be started in 2022-23 and had a city-wide focus (mental and physical wellbeing programme for people with brain injuries and veteran led community shed). These activities will be funded via underspends in the 22-23 Community Grants budget, and this also has the benefit of slightly reducing the pressure on the North Area budget.

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:

- promoting active lifestyles
 - 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
 - activity was not targeted at beneficiaries living in a specific area of the city
 - proposals were the remit of another service/fund or organisation or
 - organisation was ineligible
 - inclusion of inappropriate costs (e.g. equipment only requests)
 - organisation did not demonstrate the beneficiaries could not fund the activity themselves, or that reserves could not be used to fund the activity
- 3.8 All awards are subject to grant agreements and monitoring reports. We consider proportionate requirements dependent on the size of the organisation, project and award.
- 3.9 The North Area budget has been fully allocated however should any funding become available through the return of unspent grant awards then Officers will make decisions on awards up to £5,000 as approved by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in January 2014 and as set out in Part 3 – Discharge of Council Functions, Specific Delegations: Executive Functions (page 95) of the Constitution.

- 3.10 Following the completion of the assessment process 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: North Area Committee Community Grants – Applications and Recommendations 2023-24

Appendix 2: Area Committee Funding Formula

5. Inspection of papers

If you have a query on the report contact:

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