

Item

AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS

To: West Central Area Committee – 16 March 2023

Report by: Julie Cornwell, Community Funding and Voluntary Sector
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Wards affected: Castle, Market, Newnham

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report details applications received for 2023-2024 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 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 West Central Area Committee 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.

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. Applicant groups are encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to submitting an application to ensure their proposed activity meets the funding criteria.
- 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 £4,261 of application requests were made for a West Central Area Committee grant.

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 The rationale behind individual funding decisions will not be discussed at the meeting. Where no funding is proposed it will be due to one or more of the following reasons:

- grant scheme outcomes and/or priorities not adequately met
- poor or insufficient identification of need or understanding of beneficiaries not well demonstrated
- concerns regarding 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
- organisation was ineligible
- inclusion of inappropriate costs (e.g. equipment only requests)
- organisation did not demonstrate the beneficiaries could not fund the activity themselves
- financial need of organisation not demonstrated or over reliance on Community Grants funding

Appendix 1 sets out which of these reasons apply in those instances. Councillors are invited to contact the Grants Team prior to the meeting should they wish to discuss any specific application.

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 Any remaining Community Grant funding (or returned underspends) will be pooled to ensure its effective use on new funding enquiries from the voluntary and community sector for projects that meet identified need.

Officers can 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

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: West Central 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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