

FINANCE AND STAFFING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING

TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2017

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017. Decisions made by the Portfolio Holder will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Cabinet or to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Ian Senior.

1. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR: 6-MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT

The Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder

1. approved the continued provision of grant assistance to the current grant recipients supported through the Service Support Grant fund (subject to three year funding agreements) as agreed (Leader's Portfolio Holders Meetings, 16 December 2015 and 28 January 2016).
2. noted the delivery of all other grant programmes within the scope of the report from the Director for Health and Environmental Services, as currently delivered.

Other Options Considered: The Portfolio Holder could approve, vary or discontinue the current grant funding arrangements for the Service Support Grant Fund (subject to three year funding agreements). The Portfolio Holder can note the delivery of all other grant programmes within the scope of this report, as currently delivered.

Reason For Decision: The closed Capital Grants programme (Appendix 1) retained financial commitment to two projects at the end of the 2015/16 financial year. Duxford Parish Council's playground refurbishment project has now reached completion, with the opening ceremony held in July 2016 and final payment made. The Hardwick Scout Group's new community building project continues to progress and approximately 50% of funds are now in place (including the grant from SCDC). The group plans to submit more applications for funding over the coming months. Regarding the open programmes (Appendix 2), the majority of organisations receiving grant support have delivered the agreed outputs to time and to budget, achieving the objectives of the individual grant programmes. All recipients are being actively monitored.

2. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR: 6-MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT - SUPPLEMENTARY (COMMUNITY CHEST)

The Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder decided to reduce the maximum award from the Community Chest from £1,500 to £1,000.

Other Options Considered: To leave the figure at £1,500.

Reason For Decision: In order to support more projects during 2017-18,

3. NON-DOMESTIC RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY

The Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder adopted the "Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy" as attached to the report from the Interim Chief Executive at Appendix A.

Other Options Considered: Adopting the policy will provide additional support the business in the District, and ensure that the Council is meeting government requirements

Reason For Decision: The adoption of a formal policy will ensure that billing and collection is carried out in accordance with the law and government requirements. It will benefit and support businesses who meet the criteria, whilst minimising the risk of legal challenge.