

**REPORT TO:** Finance and Staffing Portfolio

22 August 2017

**LEAD OFFICER:** Director, Health and Environmental Services

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## **GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR: 6-MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT**

### **Purpose**

1. To examine the delivery of grant programmes funded by the Council during the second six months of 2016/17.
2. This not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within current budgets. It has been brought before the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder following agreement within the Grants Review of 2013.

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder:
  - (a) approves 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),
  - (b) decides whether or not to extend the deadline for the Hardwick Scout Group to spend its allocated grant, and
  - (c) notes the delivery of all other grant programmes within the scope of this report, as currently delivered.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. The closed Capital Grants programme (Appendix 1) retained financial commitment to one project – the Hardwick Scout Group's new community building - at the time of the last 6 monthly update (17 January 2017). The original grant agreement, dated 2 November 2012, stated that the £30,000 grant should be claimed within 24 months of the date of the letter and that if it was not claimed within 3 years it may be withdrawn. On 21 June 2016 the Portfolio Holder agreed to keep the capital grant award relating to the Hardwick South and Guide Community Building 'live' for a further 12 months.
5. Regarding the open programmes (Appendix 2), all 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.

### **Background**

6. South Cambridgeshire District Council concluded its Grants Review in February 2013, a process first begun in 2011. As a result significant changes were introduced

allowing a tighter focus on priorities, with grants and partnership funding arrangements simplified into six themes.

7. Reworked priorities were brought before the Leader at the Leader's Portfolio Holder meeting of 24 September 2015 and a further three year programme of Service Support Grants to community and voluntary organisations to aid delivery of the council's objectives agreed.
8. The scope of this report covers the one outstanding payment from the closed Capital Grants programme, and the following grant funds (the Portfolio within which each fund currently sits is noted in brackets):
  - (a) Supporting Parishes and Communities
    - (i) Community Chest (*Finance & Staffing*)
  - (b) Voluntary Sector – Advice and other grants
    - (i) Service Support Grants (*Finance & Staffing*)
      1. Generalist and Specialist Advice
      2. Community Transport
      3. Independent Living
      4. Support Parishes and Communities
      5. Fit to Learn
      6. Homelessness Prevention
  - (c) Housing and Independent Living
    - (i) Mortgage advice (Homelessness)
    - (ii) Mobile Warden Scheme (*Health and Wellbeing*)
  - (d) Planning and Economic Development
    - (i) Museum (*Planning*)
    - (ii) Wildlife Enhancement (*Planning*)
  - (e) Young people
    - (i) Young peoples partnership (*Health and Wellbeing*)
    - (ii) Elite Athlete Award Scheme (*Health and Wellbeing*)
9. The Community Chest fund was fully allocated at the time of the last six monthly update report (17 January 2017). The value of the fund for 2016-17 was £79,600. A total of sixty three awards were made during 2016/17 and £623 was left in the fund when it closed.

### **Considerations**

10. The now closed Capital Grants programme retains financial commitment to one project, the Hardwick Scout Group new Community Building, (£30,000), see Appendix 1. No update has been received from this group since the previous report, written November 2016. The update in that report stated that approximately 50% of funding had been raised, including funds awarded by SCDC, and that the committee was continuing to actively fundraise and would be applying for various grants over the coming months. The grant offer was made by the Council in November 2012 and the conditions state that "if this grant is not claimed within 24 months from the date of this letter it will be reviewed, if it is not claimed within 3 years it may be withdrawn by the Council".
11. The open grant programmes included in the Grants Review (set out in paragraph 9) are reported in detail in Appendix 2.

## **Options**

12. The Portfolio Holder could:
- (a) approve, vary or discontinue the current grant funding arrangements for the Service Support Grant Fund (subject to three year funding agreements).
  - (b) review the capital grant award for the Hardwick Scout and Guide Community Building in line with the conditions of grant and makes a decision regarding further review or withdrawal of the award (see paragraph 10).
  - (c) note the delivery of all other grant programmes within the scope of this report, as currently delivered.

## **Implications**

13. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

### ***Legal***

14. Arrangements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed, if a variation or discontinuation of funding is agreed.

## **Consultation responses**

15. None.

## **Effect on Strategic Aims**

16. Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promote a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

## **Background Papers**

Leaders Portfolio Meeting, 1 Feb 2013

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MIId=5969&Ver=4>

Finance and Staffing Portfolio Meeting, 21 June 2016

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=932&MIId=6815&Ver=4>

Finance and Staffing Portfolio Meeting, 17 January 2017

<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=932&MIId=6822&Ver=4>

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