



Report To: Grants Advisory Committee

29 March 2019

**Lead Cabinet
Member** Finance

Lead Officer: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Community Chest: Funding Applications

Purpose

1. To consider deferred applications from the Grants Advisory Committee of 22 February as well as new applications received between 1 February and 8 March to the Community Chest Grant funding scheme during 2018/19, and consider revisions to the grant criteria, making recommendations to Cabinet, as appropriate.
2. This is not a key decision, however, has been brought before the Grants Advisory Committee following agreement of Terms of Reference for the Grants Advisory Committee at Council on 23 May 2018.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee:
 - (a) considers all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and makes a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member regarding the level of funding (£0 - £1,000) to be awarded for each or defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants, and
 - (b) considers the grant criteria (see Appendix B), making recommendations on any amendments to Cabinet, as appropriate.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member responsible for grants, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Review of the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
 - (b) Design of any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
 - (c) Consideration of applications made under the Council's grants schemes.

Background

5. The Community Chest is grant funding available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. Applicants may apply for up to £1,000 and the community activity or project must deliver one or more of the following:

- Improvements to community buildings and spaces (i.e. village halls / pavilions / play areas etc)
 - Repairs to historic buildings / monuments / memorials
 - Equipment / capital purchase
 - Materials
 - Start-up costs (may include training of staff / volunteers, hall hire and other revenue costs).
6. The Community Chest Grant was suspended between 1 August and 7 October 2018 in order to review the criteria and aims so as to ensure alignment with the Council's priorities. Following a workshop between the Grants Advisory Committee and Officers, the revised criteria and guidance was put forward to Cabinet and agreed on 5 September 2018.

Two notable changes are:

- (a) Parish Councils with 160 registered electors or more are ineligible to apply.
- (b) Projects or initiatives on Parish Council land, if successful, will only receive a 50% grant with the other half expected to be match-funded by the Parish Council.

The revised guidance notes and eligibility criteria for 2018/19 can be found at Appendix B.

7. The total amount of funding made available in the Community Chest in 2018/19 was £57,000. It was agreed at the Grants Advisory Committee meeting of 27 November 2018 that £4,000 be reallocated to the Community Chest Grant Fund. This was originally awarded under the Grants to Voluntary Sector Scheme to Cambourne Church / Cambourne Children's Centre project which did not go ahead with their intended project. The total amount available for allocation during 2018/19 is therefore £61,000.
8. Little Shelford Bowls Club was awarded £1,000 in June 2018 on condition that they were unsuccessful in pursuing funding from other grant providers. They successfully applied to Living Sport and Mick George therefore no longer qualify for a grant from SCDC.

Considerations

9. There are two deferred applications for funding totalling £2,000.00 and 6 new applications totalling £4,150.69 to be considered at this meeting. The total funding requested equals £6,150.69. The amount of funding remaining for allocation is £7,638.87 (which includes the additional £4,000 referred to in paragraph 7 and £1,000 referred to in paragraph 8 of this report). A summary of the applications can be found at Appendix A (copies of the application forms are available from the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team upon request).
10. Since the new grants criteria has been in use, there have been a number of representations made to members of the Committee regarding the eligibility criteria in relation to Parish Councils or Parish Meetings with less than 160 registered electors. At the last meeting it was suggested that parishes that have more than one settlement, some of which are very small, are currently disadvantaged by the criteria. In order to ensure that all small settlements can benefit, the Committee may wish to consider altering the criteria to include:

- (a) Parish Councils and Parish Meetings with more than one settlement, as long as the settlement they are applying for has less than 160 registered electors, or
- (b) Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, where they have more than 160 registered electors, who can demonstrate special circumstances.

Options

- 11. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member to
 - (a) award the amount of funding requested,
 - (b) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding, or
 - (c) defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.
- 12. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider the grant criteria (see Appendix B), making recommendations on any amendments to Cabinet, as appropriate.

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:

Risk Management

- 14. Applicants are required to provide supporting documents such as copies of their constitution and quotes where applicable. Applicants must agree to the grant conditions before funds are released.

Consultation responses

- 15. Local members have been consulted on applications that directly affect their local area.

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