



Report To: Grants Advisory Committee **26 April 2019**

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor John Williams

Lead Officer: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Community Chest: Funding Applications

Purpose

1. To consider a deferred application from the Grants Advisory Committee of 29 March.
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 considers all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A to 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.

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 June 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.
8. Little Shelford Bowls Club was awarded £1,000 in June 2018 provided that they were unsuccessful in pursuing funding from other grant providers. They successfully applied to Living Sport and Mick George and, therefore, no longer qualify for this grant from SCDC. The total amount available for allocation during 2018/19 is therefore £61,000.

Considerations

9. There is 1 deferred application for funding totalling £500.00 to be considered at this meeting. The total funding requested equals £500.00. The amount of funding remaining for allocation is £1988.18 (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 Environment Team upon request).

Options

10. 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.

Implications

11. 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

12. 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

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

Effect on Strategic Aims

14. The corporate aims are referenced in the criteria and guidance notes for the Community Chest.

Report Author: Ryan Coetsee – Project Officer, Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing
Telephone: 01954 713461