



**REPORT TO:** Grants Advisory Committee

28 June 2019

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Finance

**LEAD OFFICER:** Trevor Nicoll

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## **COMMUNITY CHEST: REVIEW**

### **Executive Summary**

1. To consider revisions to the Community Chest grant criteria, making recommendations to Cabinet, as appropriate.

### **Key Decision**

2. No.

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee approve the updates to the grants criteria (see Appendix A) and recommend 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.
5. Having recently reviewed the criteria for the Community Chest Grant Fund, members of the Grants Advisory Committee felt it prudent to make some additional changes to refine the criteria further following meetings held in February and March 2019. These additional changes are recommended in order to keep the scheme's criteria relevant and in-line with the Council's recently published Business Plan.

### **Details**

6. On 24 May 2018 the Council Leader and Lead Member for Finance decided to temporarily close the Community Chest Grant scheme to allow newly elected members to review the scheme's criteria. It was also agreed that applications received on or before 31 May 2018 would be considered using the scheme's existing criteria.

7. Applications were suspended between 1 June and 7 October 2018 in order to review the criteria and aims so as to ensure alignment with the priorities of the new Administration. Following a workshop between the Grants Advisory Committee and Officers, the revised criteria and guidance were put forward to Cabinet and agreed on 5 September 2018.
8. Two notable changes at that time were:
  - (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.
9. 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, and in particular, with relation to Parish Councils or Parish Meetings with less than 160 registered electors especially where there are multiple settlements under a single Parish Council/Meeting.
10. Consequently some additional changes have been made to refine the criteria further and, if accepted, will take effect from 1 October 2019 when the second half of the Grant Fund is released – as per the current guidance.

### **Considerations**

11. At the February Grants Committee meeting it was suggested that parishes that have more than one settlement, some of which are very small, are currently disadvantaged by the criteria. There are two such Parishes in the South Cambridgeshire District:
  - (a) Great Chishill (454) and Little Chishill (50), and
  - (b) Little Wilbraham (239) and Six Mile Bottom (103).
12. There are 6 Parishes where elector numbers are over the 160 threshold by 10%, namely: Graveley, Madingley, Hatley, Croydon, Longstowe and Hildersham, which constitutes 5% of total electorate. Total electorate numbers can be found at Appendix B of this report.
13. In previous meetings it was noted that Political parties are not eligible to apply and the criteria should be changed to reflect this.
14. It is appropriate to remove any reference to “Community Energy Grant” as this has been discontinued.
15. Any further changes to the criteria and application form that are debated in the meeting will be included in this as a final version and recommended to the Lead Cabinet Member for final sign off.

### **Options**

16. The Grants Advisory Committee could:
  - (a) approve the updates to the grants criteria (see Appendix A to this report), and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member to refine the Community Chest grant scheme criteria; or

(b) reject the updates to the grants criteria made in Appendix A to this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member to make no further changes to the Community Chest grant scheme criteria at this time.

### **Implications**

17. There are no significant implications.

### **Risk**

18. Risk to the Council is managed via the documentation that is required of applicants plus agreement of the grant conditions.

### **Consultation responses**

19. The additional changes are the result of representations made to elected members and feedback on the changes made in Sept 2018.

### **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

20. The review will ensure that the Community Chest grant scheme reflects Council priorities.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Applications Summary

Appendix B: Guidance notes for Community Chest 19/20

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