

Report to:	Grants Advisory Committee	27 January 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Councillor John Williams Lead Cabinet Member for Resources	
Lead Officer:	Gareth Bell, Communications and Communities Service Manager	

Community Chest Grant: Funding Applications

Executive Summary

1. To consider new applications received between 7 November 2022 and 6 January 2023 to the Community Chest Grant funding scheme.

Key Decision

2. No

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 for Finance regarding the level of funding (£0 - £2,000) to be awarded for each, or defers a decision, if further information is required, or rejects an application if it doesn't comply with the grant criteria.
4. It is also recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee considers the criteria considerations set out in Appendix C to this report and makes a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance regarding amending the criteria, stating the changes to be made or defers a decision to amend the criteria, if further information is required, or rejects any criteria changes stating the reason(s) for this.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. 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) Reviewing the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
- b) Designing any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
- c) Considering applications made under the Council's grants schemes.

Details

6. 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 £2,000 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)
 - Costs involved with the creation of a Community-Led Plan (not the resulting projects)
 - Enhance the natural environment / result in a sustainable increase in local biodiversity
 - Provide a benefit to those affected by the cost-of-living crisis

In accordance with the criteria, Parish Councils of any size can apply for biodiversity grants through this fund if they are not already in receipt of a grant from the Council's Zero Carbon Communities grant fund for the current financial year.

Parish Councils are also eligible to apply if they are using funds to deliver community engagement for the creation of a Community-Led Plan.

Parish Councils are also eligible to apply if they are using funds to provide a benefit to those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

7. Guidance notes and full eligibility criteria can be found at Appendix B. This includes the newly included cost-of-living crisis criteria highlighted in grey.
8. Members are asked to consider amending the Community Chest Criteria (Appendix C) to provide clarity to applicants on which (if any) applications can be made again in the same financial year.
9. The total amount of funding available for Community Chest Grants in 2022/23 is **£48,225.31**.

10. In addition, there is **£20,000**** ringfenced for 2022/23 for **Biodiversity Grants**, **£48,000** ringfenced (expiring in October 2023) for the creation of **Community-Led Plans** and **£20,000** ringfenced until end March 2023 (obtained from a successful bid to the Integrated Care System) **for cost-of-living crisis projects**

11. A summary of the applications can be found at Appendix A (copies of the applications forms are available from the Communities Team upon request).

12. The table below details the budget remaining at the time of this report within each subsection of the Community Chest, as well as the number of applications made, and the total amounts applied for.

Type (total fund for the period)	Date fund expires	Total budget at last month	Applications received this month	Total applied for this month	Remaining budget if all projects funded this month
Community Chest (£48,225.31)*	31 March 2023	£12,536.47	3	£6,000	£6,536.47
Biodiversity (£20,000) **	31 March 2023	£17,264.41	1	£1,795	£15,469.41
Community-Led Plans (£48,000)	October 2023	£46,000	0	0	£46,000
Cost- Of Living (£20,000)	31 March 2023	£20,000	1	£1,531.92	£18,468.08
Total	-	£95,800.88	5	£9,326.92	£86,473.96

* £58,000 (annual allocation) minus £9,774.69 (- £9,774.69 being the balance after the applications received in March were funded in April).

**£10,000 plus remaining £10,000 from 2021/2022 financial year

Options

13. 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 for Finance to:

A) award the amount of funding requested,

- B) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding,
- C) defer a decision, if further information is required from grant applicants, or
- D) reject an application stating the reason for this.

14. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider the criteria considerations that are set out in Appendix C of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to:

- A) amend the criteria, stating the changes to be made
- B) defer a decision to amend the criteria, if further information is required
- C) reject any criteria changes stating the reason(s) for this.

Implications

15. There are no significant implications

Consultation responses

16. Wherever possible, local members have been consulted on applications that directly affect their local area.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

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

Background Papers

Grants Advisory Committee Meetings

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=1096&Year=0>

Appendices

Appendix A: Applications Summary

Appendix B: Guidance notes for Community Chest

Appendix C: Criteria Considerations

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