

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting 23 January 2012

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director, Operational Services / Corporate Manager, Community and Customer Services

COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS 2011-12

Purpose

1. To provide a summary of the decisions made to allocate Community Chest grants, since the scheme's inception in October 2011.
2. This is not a key decision, it is for information only.

Recommendation

3. That the Leader notes the information contained in the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Not applicable.

Background

5. As part of a corporate review of all grants given by SCDC, the Community Chest was formed to ensure local groups and parishes could apply for small grants to cover one-off capital and revenue costs.
6. This phase of the Community Chest grants scheme from October 2011-March 2012 serves as a 'pilot' for a year-long scheme in 2012-13. The guidance notes and application form (**Appendices 1 & 2**) will be altered to reflect learning throughout this 6-month pilot phase and implemented prior to the launch of the 2012-13 scheme on 1 April 2012.
7. £36,750 was made available for this pilot phase, of which nearly £14,000 has been allocated. Any funds remaining at the end of March 2012 will roll forward into the scheme for 2012-13. See **Appendix 3** for details of the decisions taken.

Considerations

8. A range of issues have been taken into consideration in allocating these grants, including: whether the application meets the criteria, including meeting one or more Council aim/s; the geographical spread of applications – funds must be distributed as evenly as possible across the district; whether or not the applicant has received grant funding from other SCDC sources in the same financial year, and what for.

Options

9. To note the decisions taken and take them into consideration when making future grant awards.

Implications

10. Financial	None. These grants fall within the budgetary allocation to the Community Chest. Members of the accountancy team have been involved in determining the coding and payment processes.
Legal	None.
Staffing	None.
Risk Management	If the grant fund is unspent by 31 March 2012, it will be rolled over into the 2012-13 financial year. Grants are allocated on a first come, first served basis and once the fund is spent, no further grants will be allocated until the scheme re-opens for the following year.
Equality and Diversity	Grants are available, and should be allocated to, a broad range of organisations. All groups meeting the criteria are eligible.
Equality Impact Assessment completed	An EQIA will be undertaken once the grants review is complete and the final application forms, criteria and guidance notes have been finalised, incorporating any changes as identified by the pilot phase.
Climate Change	None.

Consultations

11. The Council Leader and a second Cabinet member have made these decisions in consultation with relevant district councillors and grants officers. All decisions are subject to a five day call-in period.

Consultation with Children and Young People

12. Children and young people, and the groups serving them, have been invited to give their views on the ongoing grants review, along with all other grant-seeking organisations.

Effect on Strategic Aims

13. Each of the grants allocated has been given to a group or organisation capable of demonstrating how their project fits with the Council's priorities.

Conclusions / Summary

14. Community Chest grants provide a quick and easy way for groups and organisations to apply for one-off or start up grant and have benefitted 19 organisations in total so far.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

See attachments.

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