



Report To: Leader's Portfolio Holder Meeting
Lead Officer: Director, Health and Environmental Services

25 September 2014

COMMUNITY CHEST: FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Purpose

1. To consider the latest applications for funding from the Council's Community Chest grant funding scheme.
2. This is not a key decision, however, has been brought before the Leader following agreement at the Portfolio Holder meeting on 17 July 2014 to make decision on future Community Chest applications at his Portfolio Holder meetings.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Leader:
 - (a) agrees to receive the proposed virement £2,000 from the Service Support Grants Independent Living theme into the Community Chest for allocation in 2014/15.
 - (b) considers all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and makes a decision regarding the level of funding (£0 - £1,500) to be awarded for each or defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Leader makes all decisions regarding Community Chest grant funding applications unless there is a conflict of interest. On 17 July 2014 the Leader agreed to make decision on future Community Chest applications at his Portfolio Holder meetings.
5. The virement of the unallocated £2,000 from the Service Support Grants Independent Living theme into the Community Chest for allocation in 2014/15 would allow for the grant funding to continue to be allocated as grants and in an open and transparent way. A further application process under this theme would be costly in terms of staff time compared to the amount of funding available.

Background

6. The Community Chest is grant funding available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities, parish councils and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. Applicants may apply for up to £1,500 for:
 - Improvements to community facilities (i.e. village halls / pavilions / play areas)
 - Repairs to historic buildings / monuments / memorials
 - The Tree and Hedge planting Scheme
 - Community Rights of Way (Parish Paths scheme)
 - Equipment / capital purchase

- Materials
- Start-up costs (may include training of staff / volunteers, hall hire and other revenue costs).

The guidance notes and eligibility criteria for 2014/15 can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/community-chest-grants-201314>

7. The total amount of funding made available in the Community Chest in 2014/15 was £52,000. In addition, £7,402.50 was carried forward from 2013/14. The funding is allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Considerations

8. Grant funding to a total of £55,721.79 has been allocated since 1 April 2014, which includes £7,402.50 carried forward from 2013/14. The amount of budget currently remaining for allocation is **£3,680.71**, which includes £1,000 to be returned from Gamlingay Allotment Gardeners Association.
9. An additional £2,000 from the 3-year Service Support Grants Independent Living theme (Environmental Services Portfolio) remains unallocated from 2013/14 and could be added to the amount of Community Chest available for allocation in 2014/15. A further application process under the Independent Living theme would be costly in terms of staff time compared to the amount of funding available and the suggested approach would retain the funding as grant funding to be allocated in an open and transparent way. The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder has been consulted and supports this approach. If agreed by the Leader, the new total for allocation will be **£5,680.71**.
10. At the Joint Portfolio Holder Meeting on 23 May 2013 it was agreed that the unallocated funding of £8,461 (total for 2013/14 & 2014/15) under the 3-year Service Support Grants Community Transport theme (Strategic Planning and Transportation Portfolio) should be retained within this theme. A report will be submitted to the Strategic Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder for a decision on allocating this funding.
11. The Leader stated at his meeting on 27 August 2014 that he would also like to allocate funding towards the planned August 2015 commemorations to honour local people who fought in the Far East during WWII. This will be budgeted for in 2015/16, the year in which the tribute will take place.
12. There are 4 applications for funding to be considered at this meeting. The applications were received between 14 August 2014 and 11 September 2014. The total funding requested equals £5,150. 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).

Options

13. The Leader may:
 - (a) agree to receive the proposed virement of £2,000 from the Service Support Grants Independent Living theme into the Community Chest for allocation in 2014/15.
 - (b) Suggest an alternative use for the unallocated £2,000 from the Service Support Grants Independent Living theme, which would need to be agreed with the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder.

14. The Leader may consider all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and
 - (a) award the amount of funding requested
 - (b) award an alternative amount of funding
 - (c) defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.

Implications

15. 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

16. 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 (including from the Youth Council)

17. Local members have been consulted on applications that directly affect their local area.
18. The Youth Council has made comment upon the applications. Appendix A sets out if the Youth Council supports each application and more detailed comments are on file.
19. The Environmental Service Portfolio Holder has been consulted regarding the proposed virement of unallocated funds from the Service Support Grants Independent Living theme into the Community Chest for allocation in 2014/15. He is in support of this approach.

Effect on Strategic Aims

20. The Corporate Aims are listed in the criteria and guidance notes for the Community Chest. Applications that meet our strategic aims are prioritised.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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