



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

29 January 2015

COMMUNITY CHEST: FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Purpose

1. To consider the final applications for funding from the grant funding scheme during 2014/15.
2. This is not a key decision, however, has been bought 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) considers the requested change of use for grant funding allocated to 1st Willingham Scout Group and agree (same or varied amount), refuse or defer the request.
 - (b) considers all new 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.

Background

5. 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.scamb.gov.uk/content/community-chest-grants-201314>

6. 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, £2,000 of unallocated Service Support Grant added on 25 September and £10,000 additional funding from the Community Development budget added on 27 November. The funding is allocated on a first-come first-served basis.
7. The Community Chest grant funding scheme was closed at the end of September 2014 following expenditure of all monies set out in paragraph 7, but re-opened between 27 November and 14 January following the decision to allocate further funds to the scheme.

Considerations

8. There is £7,961.80 funding available for allocation at the meeting. A request for change of use of grant funding allocated to 1st Willingham Scout Group (decision April 2014) has also been made, which depending on the decision could result in a further up to £1,500 becoming available (see paragraph 10 below).
9. There are fourteen new applications for funding to be considered at this meeting. The applications were received between 27 November 2014 and 14 January 2015. The total funding requested equals £18,994.44. 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).
10. The 1st Willingham Scout Group was awarded £1,500 in April 2014 towards the cost of internal building works. This work has subsequently been refused planning permission and as such the group is requesting a change of use of the grant funding to camping equipment.

Options

11. The Leader may
 - (a) agree to a change of grant use for 1st Willingham Scout Group at the same level of funding awarded
 - (b) agree to a change of grant use for 1st Willingham Scout Group varying the level of funding awarded
 - (c) defer a decision if further information is required
 - (d) refuse the reallocation of grant funding to 1st Willingham Scout Group.
12. 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, including zero funding
 - (c) defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.

Implications

13. 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

14. 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)

15. Local members have been consulted on applications that directly affect their local area.
16. The Youth Council has been sent the applications for consideration. Due to the tight turn around from the scheme closing date to the submission of this report, it is hoped to be able to provide any responses verbally at the meeting.

Effect on Strategic Aims

17. 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.

Report Author: Gemma Barron – Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Manager
Telephone: (01954) 713340