



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

12 November 2015

COMMUNITY CHEST: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2016/17

Purpose

1. To agree the eligibility criteria for the Community Chest 2016/17 grant funding scheme and approve the carry forward of uncommitted balances.
2. This is not a key decision, however, has been brought before the Leader because the Constitution states that
 - (a) policies and criteria for the approval of grant schemes under which no award exceeds level one (£5,000) are for decision by the Portfolio Holder and the Portfolio Holder.
 - (b) approval to carry forward uncommitted balances on reserve account for grants is for decision by the Portfolio Holder.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Leader:
 - (a) agrees eligibility criteria for the Community Chest 2016/17, making the following amendments to the existing scheme:
 - (i) amending the criteria to state that the Community Chest will not fund Community Speedwatch Schemes OR 'other traffic initiatives'
 - (ii) remove the specification that projects that involve building works to Community Buildings or Historic Buildings/Monuments/Memorials, the grant will be paid once the work has been completed.
 - (iii) amend the criteria to state that each parish can receive five awards OR 'a maximum of £7500'.
 - (iv) Approve the carry forward of remaining balance.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Since the grants review in 2013, the Community Chest grant funding criteria has evolved into its current form. The amendments suggested to the grant criteria reflect recent decisions by the Leader.

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 in 2015/16 could 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 2015/16 can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

6. The total amount of funding made available in the Community Chest in 2015/16 was £84,786 following a top-up of £10,000 made in July 2015 and the return of an unclaimed grant for £1,500 made in 2014. The funding was allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Considerations

7. Applications have been received in the past year for road signage and speed monitoring equipment. The eligibility criteria already states that funding cannot be used towards Community Speedwatch Schemes, however, adding a further qualification of 'or other traffic initiatives' will hopefully ensure less ineligible applications.
8. In some instances parishes/groups applied for small amounts of grant funding. If the criteria is amended to state 'five applications OR a total of £7500', this should ensure fairness and value for money.
9. The Community Chest grant funding scheme was closed following the Leader's meeting on 24 September 2015. Applications that had been submitted but not heard before this date were heard on 19 October 2015. £548.25 is remaining in the Community Chest budget following allocations made in October 2015.
10. From 1 April 2015 to 19 October 2015 the Leader awarded 73 grants across 47 parishes. A map of these allocations can be found at Appendix A.

Options

11. The Leader may
 - (a) agree the eligibility criteria for the Community Chest 2016/17, making the following amendments to the existing scheme:
 - i. amending the criteria to state that the Community Chest will not fund Community Speedwatch Schemes OR 'other traffic initiatives'
 - ii. remove the specification that projects that involve building works to Community Buildings or Historic Buildings/Monuments/Memorials, the grant will be paid once the work has been completed.
 - iii. amend the criteria to state that each parish can receive five awards OR 'a maximum of £7500'.
 - (b) agree alternative amendments to the eligibility criteria for the Community Chest 2016/17.
 - (c) agree to continue using the existing eligibility criteria.

A draft of the amended criteria can be found at Appendix B.

12. The Leader may:
 - (a) agree to carry forward the remaining £548.25 in the Community Chest budget following allocations made in October 2015.

- (b) refuse to carry forward the £548.25 remaining in the Community Chest budget for 2015/16.

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.

Effect on Strategic Aims

- 15. 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: Kirstin Donaldson – Development Officer
Telephone: (01954) 712908