

REPORT TO: Leader's Portfolio Meeting

28 January 2016

LEAD OFFICER: Director, Health and Environmental Services

**GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR:
3-YEAR SERVICE SUPPORT GRANTS 2016/17-2018/19**

Purpose

1. To determine further awards to be made for three year programmes to the community and voluntary sector from the Service Support Grant fund for 2016/17-2018/19.
2. This is not a key decision, however, it is subject to Council's decision on budgets in February 2016.

Recommendations

3. That the Leader agrees to make the following decisions, subject to agreement by Council on budget, on awards from the Service Support Grant fund (subject to three year funding agreements) to run from April 2016 to March 2019:

Community Transport

4. A That the following applicants be awarded funding as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Community Transport

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Total
3 Counties Transport (in association with The Voluntary Network)	£3,835	£3,835	£3,835	£11,505
Royston and District Community Transport	£3,165	£3,165	£3,165	£9,495
Care Network	£8,000	£8,000	£8,000	£24,000
Year totals	£15,000	£15,000	£15,000	£45,000

- B That the application from Cambridge Dial-a-Ride is not awarded funding.

Independent Living

5. A That the following applicants be awarded funding as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Independent Living

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
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Arts and Minds	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£7,500
Care Network	£6,500	£6,500	£6,500	£18,500
Cope	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£12,000
DISH	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£9,000
Year totals	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000	£48,000

B The unallocated funds of £4,000 per annum be redirected to the Fit to Learn theme.

Fit to Learn

6. A That the following applicant be awarded funding as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Fit to Learn

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Home-Start Royston and South Cambridgeshire with Home-Start Cambridgeshire	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£12,000
<i>(Cambourne Church with BMCG Children's Centre awarded funding 16/12/15_</i>	<i>£4,000</i>	<i>£4,000</i>	<i>£4,000</i>	<i>£12,000</i>
Year totals	£8,000	£8,000	£4,000	£24,000

Reasons for Recommendations

7. The priorities for this grant fund were agreed by the relevant Portfolio Holders and approved by the Leader on 24 September 2015. The programmes recommended for funding align with these priorities and will provide support to the Community and Voluntary Sector to deliver vital services for the district's residents.
8. Applications for Service Support Grant funding were openly invited from the sector. The scheme was promoted both by the Council and by its partners. The criteria by which applications would be judged and scored were included in the scheme criteria and guidance notes for the purposes of transparency. The applications were independently assessed by a panel of three development officers and their scorings pooled, ensuring the process was conducted in a fair and transparent manner.
9. The applications received under the Community Transport theme are summarised in Appendix 2 and the assessment score indicated. This theme was over-subscribed by £8,223 per annum. The case made for continued support for Cambridge Dial-a-Ride was considered weak in comparison with other applications under this theme and therefore a discontinuation of funding to this applicant is recommended.
10. The applications received under the Independent Living theme are summarised in Appendix 3 and the assessment score indicated. Following assessment of the grant applications and subsequent allocation of funds according to the quality of the applications, there was an under-allocation of £4,000 per annum for this theme.
11. The applications received under the Fit to Learn theme are summarised in Appendix 4. A new theme to the programme, the Fit to Learn strand received two applications

of high quality, and It is therefore recommended that the application from Homestart be awarded funding in addition to the Cambourne Church – BMCG consortium’s proposal agreed at the last Leader’s Portfolio Holders meeting (16 December 2016), using the unallocated funds from the Independent Living theme redirected to the Fit to Learn theme. This has been discussed with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Environmental Services, who is supportive of this re-direction.

Background

12. South Cambridgeshire District Council concluded its Grants Review in February 2013, a process first begun in 2011. As a result significant changes were introduced allowing a tighter focus on priorities, with grants and partnership funding arrangements simplified and responsibility assigned to the respective Portfolio Holders according to theme. (See Appendix 1 of the Background Paper, Leaders Portfolio Holders Meeting 1 February 2013).
13. The themes, eligible activities and levels funding assigned to a further three year programme of support for the Community and Voluntary Sector were agreed by the Leader on 24 September 2015 and given in Appendix 1 to this paper.
14. Applications were invited for this fund and assessments made for the grant programme in accordance with the timetable given below:

Activity	Timescale
Bidding round launches	Monday 12 October 2015
Bidding round closes	Friday 20 November 2015
Applications assessed and panel meets	Assessment week commencing 23 November, panel met 27 November
Officer recommendations brought to Portfolio Holder meeting	16 December 2015
Organisations to be notified of decisions, following call-in	23 December 2015
Grant schedules to be agreed and signed	March 2016
First funding instalments payable	April 2016

15. The Leader considered all applications at the Portfolio Holder meeting, 16 December 2016, where he determined the awards to be made (subject to budgets) under the Generalist and Specialist Welfare Advice Theme, the Support for Parish and Communities Theme and the Fit to Learn Theme.
16. The Leader deferred decisions on the remaining themes within the fund, namely Community Transport, Independent Living and the remaining application under Fit to Learn, until a subsequent meeting at which point there would be further clarity around budgets available for 2015/16, improving the confidence level at which offers of grant could be made, albeit subject to budgets.

Considerations

17. The grant programme to support services provided by the community and voluntary sector should align with our corporate objectives and the schemes funded be both effective (i.e. evidence based) and offer good value for money. The proposed priorities for a further three year Service Support Grant programme were refined to

align with these refreshed corporate priorities (see Appendix 1) and developed with the benefit of further discussions with the Portfolio Holders responsible.

18. The Leader is expected to make a decision on grants under all of the themes; however, officers have discussed the scoring of applications and recommended allocations with other relevant Portfolio Holder's prior to the meeting.
19. A summary of each application within all themes under consideration is given in Appendix 2 (Community Transport), Appendix 3 (Independent Living) and Appendix 4 (Fit to Learn).

Options

20. The Leader could approve or vary or reject the recommended funding allocations for the Service Support Grant fund (all subject to three year funding agreements).

Implications

21. 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:

Financial

22. The total awards are within the Council's proposed three year financial commitment of £402,000 to the Service Support fund (both grant offers and grant agreements would need to make clear that funding is subject to availability of budget). The Council's approach to obtaining the additional £0.4m of funding necessary in 2016/17 to match planned commitments following the reduction in Revenue Support Grant announced in the Autumn Statement has yet to be determined, but could result from either additional savings, reallocating resources from the New Homes Bonus away from infrastructure, by increasing council tax, or by a combination of these measures. Therefore a degree of uncertainty still remains around the availability of budget to resource the Service Support Grant fund not only in the next financial year but also in subsequent years of the programme.

The staffing implications have been considered; there is a staff requirement to monitor and oversee the work of the grant recipients, report on activity and administer payments, which remains in line with the current commitment.

Legal

23. Arrangements will be put in place with grant recipients, which would allow variation or termination of grant under certain circumstances.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

The recommended awards were discussed both with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and for Strategic Planning and Transportation, who were supportive of the officer recommendations relating to their Portfolio Holder activities.

Effect on Strategic Aims

24. Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promotes a good quality of life for all residents, assisting directly or indirectly through voluntary organisations schemes which help

overcome the challenges faced by residents imposed by age, infirmity, disability, low income or rurality.

Background Papers

Leader's Portfolio Meeting 1 Feb 2013

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=5969&Ver=4>

Joint Leader, Planning Policy and Localism and Environmental Services Portfolio Holders Meeting 23 May 2014

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=6132&Ver=4>

Leader's Portfolio Meeting 16 Jan 2014

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=6032&Ver=4>

Cabinet, 10 July 2014

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=6276&Ver=4>

Leaders Portfolio Meeting 17 July 2014

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=6335&Ver=4>

Cabinet, 12 February 2015

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=6280&Ver=4>

Leader's Portfolio Meeting 11 March 2015

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s79459/Community%20Chest%20Eligibility%20Report%20110315.pdf>

Leaders Portfolio Meeting 24 September 2015

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=6624&Ver=4>

Leaders Portfolio Meeting 16 December 2015

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