

REPORT TO: Finance and Staffing Portfolio Meeting
LEAD OFFICER: Director, Health and Environmental Services

17 January 2017

Grants To Voluntary Sector: 6-Monthly Update Report

Purpose

1. To examine the delivery of grant programmes funded by the Council during the first six months of 2016/17.
2. This not a key decision because it reviews expenditure within current budgets. It has been brought before the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder following agreement within the Grants Review of 2013.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder approves the continued provision of grant assistance to the current grant recipients supported through the Service Support Grant fund (subject to three year funding agreements) as agreed (Leader's Portfolio Holders Meetings, 16 December 2015 and 28 January 2016).
4. It is recommended the Portfolio Holder notes the delivery of all other grant programmes within the scope of this report, as currently delivered.

Reasons for Recommendations

5. The closed Capital Grants programme (Appendix 1) retained financial commitment to two projects at the end of the 2015/16 financial year. Duxford Parish Council's playground refurbishment project has now reached completion, with the opening ceremony held in July 2016 and final payment made. The Hardwick Scout Group's new community building project continues to progress and approximately 50% of funds are now in place (including the grant from SCDC). The group plans to submit more applications for funding over the coming months.
6. Regarding the open programmes (Appendix 2), the majority of organisations receiving grant support have delivered the agreed outputs to time and to budget, achieving the objectives of the individual grant programmes. All recipients are being actively monitored.

Background

7. 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 into six themes.
8. Reworked priorities were brought before the Leader (Leader's Portfolio Holder meeting, 24 September 2015) and a further three year programme of Service Support

Grants to community and voluntary organisations to aid delivery of the council's objectives agreed.

9. The scope of this report covers the outstanding payment from the closed Capital Grants programme, and the following grant funds:
 - (a) Supporting Parishes and Communities
 - (i) Community Chest
 - (b) Voluntary Sector – Advice and other grants
 - (i) Service Support Grants
 1. Generalist and Specialist Advice
 2. Community Transport
 3. Independent Living
 4. Support Parishes and Communities
 5. Fit to Learn
 6. Homelessness Prevention
 - (c) Housing and Independent Living
 - (i) Mortgage advice
 - (ii) Mobile Warden Scheme
 - (d) Planning and Economic Development
 - (i) Museum
 - (ii) Wildlife Enhancement
 - (e) Young people
 - (i) Young peoples partnership
 - (ii) Young peoples work
 - (iii) Elite Athlete Award Scheme
10. The Community Chest Eligibility Criteria for 2015/16 were agreed by the Leader (Leader Portfolio Holder meeting, 11 March 2015). An additional £20,000 was allocated to the Community Chest budget by Cabinet, 12 February 2015, meaning that the fund had a combined value of £79,600 when it became available to applicants on 1 April 2016.
11. Responsibility for the Community Chest, Service Support Grants and Mobile Warden Schemes (policy) has subsequently transferred to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing, although funding decisions relating to the Mobile Warden Scheme and Elite Athlete Scheme are now taken by the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder. This change occurred following the Annual Council meeting held on 19 May 2016.

Considerations

12. The now closed capital grants programme retains financial commitments to one project, see Appendix 1.
13. The open grant programmes included in the Grants Review (set out in paragraph 9) are reported in detail in Appendix 2.
14. Intensified promotional effort, including by elected members and an increase in the maximum award has meant that demand for Community Chest grants grew and remained strong throughout 2015/16. The boosted Community Chest fund re-opened 1 April 2016, with the scheme advertised as being 'first come, first served' and closed to applicants following the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder meeting 20

September 2016. 63 awards were made during 2016/17 and £623 was left in the fund when it closed.

Options

15. The Portfolio Holder could approve, vary or discontinue the current grant funding arrangements for the Service Support Grant Fund (subject to three year funding agreements).
16. The Portfolio Holder can note the delivery of all other grant programmes within the scope of this report, as currently delivered.

Implications

17. 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:

Legal

18. Arrangements are in place with grant recipients, which should be followed, if a variation or discontinuation of funding is agreed.

Consultation responses

19. None.

Effect on Strategic Aims

20. Ensure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents: the grant programmes promote 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

Leaders Portfolio Meeting, 1 Feb 2013

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

Leaders Portfolio Meeting, 16 December 2016

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=6680&Ver=4>

Leaders Portfolio Meeting, 28 January 2016

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=883&MId=6699&Ver=4>

Finance and Staffing Portfolio Meeting, 21 June 2016

<http://moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=932&MId=6815&Ver=4>

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