

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Grants Advisory Committee held on
Friday, 28 August 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Jose Hales – Chair
Councillor Clare Delderfield – Vice-Chair

Councillors: Sue Ellington Peter McDonald
Bill Handley

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:
Aaron Clarke Democratic Services Officer
Lesley McFarlane Development Officer (Health Specialist)

Councillor John Williams (Lead Cabinet Member for Finance) was in attendance, by invitation.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Claire Daunton sent an apology for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sue Ellington declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee for the Care Network.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Grants Advisory Committee authorised the Chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held Friday 28 August 2020.

4. Service Support Grants

It was noted that the Service Support Grants were to be awarded over a three-year contract, with the recipients reporting to the Grants Advisory Committee on an annual basis. The first year of the three year cycle formed the basis of report given by the officer.

It was commented that the Service Support Grant for Arts & Minds had only reached 11 South Cambs residents and as such was noted that this was the most expensive grant awarded in the context of cost per person reached. Officers explained that Arts & minds had had a change of leadership in the last 6 months and were making a concerted effort to reach more South Cambs residents.

Cllr Sue Ellington commented that the Council should try support those organisations most affected by Covid-19 and noted that officer advice would be crucial to target the funding

where it would have the most benefit.

The Committee highlighted the need to understand the impact of Covid-19 in the reports that each of these charities provided next year, with particular attention drawn to such charities as Cambridge Women's Aid and Citizens Advice due to the nature of their work. Cllr Peter McDonald commented that it would be beneficial to see the picture of discretionary grants awarded in juxtaposition to this 3 year cyclical funding that is awarded to other charities to understand the full picture in the Covid-19 scenario.

It was **agreed** that officers would set up an ongoing email in case any issues arose that required a swift response, rather than waiting for the next committee meeting to be able to deal with it. It was remarked that this was necessary due to the fluid situation that businesses found themselves in economically due to Covid-19.

It was **agreed** that officers would bring an update report to the committee within a couple of months of the meeting.

Members of the Grants Advisory Committee **agreed** by affirmation to:

1. note the delivery of all grant programmes within the scope of this report, and agree that all are on track as per officer opinion; and/or
2. highlight any concerns for further investigation or action, giving reasons, and request that a follow up report be returned to GAC within appropriate timescales.

5. **Date of next meeting**

Friday 25 September 2020 at 10:00am.

The Meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.
