

09 July 2012**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF TEAM MANAGER (MEMBERS AND CIVIC SERVICES)****COUNCILLORS DIVISIONAL FUND 2011/12****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on the achievements of the Councillors Divisional Fund in 2011/12

Information and Advice

2. The Councillors' Divisional Fund (CDF) enables each Member to put forward proposals for expenditure in their electoral division. The scheme is intended to provide a direct benefit to organisations, groups, or individuals active in the division. It consists of an annual allowance of £10,000 for each Member. There is provision to carry forward to the following financial year an amount up to 10% of the annual allowance.
3. The County Council must have legal powers to incur the type of expenditure proposed and the request should not be contrary to County Council policy. Proposals should be for one-off items of expenditure and not for anything which would create an on-going financial commitment.
4. On 19th May 2011 the County Council considered the scheme and strengthened the guidance to
 - a. remind members that the Code of Conduct applies to the CDF as to other parts of the Council's work and that they should not leave themselves open to suggestions that the scheme is conducted other than with the utmost integrity.
 - b. ensure that recipients give an appropriate level of recognition to the Council's funding.

At the same time responsibility for administering the scheme was transferred to Democratic Services.

5. County Council on 3rd November 2011 agreed the Corporate Grant Aid Strategy. Other than sports grants to individuals or playschemes grant aid will not normally be available for amounts under £500. Organisations seeking grants of less than £500 are advised to apply to their local Councillor's Divisional Fund.
6. The type of grants proposed by members reflects the particular characteristics of individual divisions and specific local issues. A database of all grants made is kept in Democratic

Services and published on the Council's website. A summary of the information on all grants is published in County News. In addition, many councillors highlight grants on their individual webpages. Grants cover the whole range of the Council's priorities including

- a. Fostering aspiration, independence, and personal responsibility; through support to young people's activities, funding community groups working with older people, assisting sports, leisure and cultural activities etc
 - b. Promoting Economic prosperity and supporting the environment through support to community conservation activities and environmental improvements, local tourism projects, local economic development initiatives etc
 - c. Making Nottinghamshire a safer place to live, through supporting local community safety initiatives, assisting domestic violence projects, funding local traffic management schemes etc
7. In 2011/12 some 1647 grants were paid to 1137 different organisations. The average (mean) grant was some £409. Some 62% of grants awarded are for £500 or less and 85% are for £1,000 or less.
 8. The CDF is designed to be flexible and is administered in a light-touch manner. The total spend in 2011/12 was some £674,000.
 9. Five members had an individual balance of over £1,000 unspent at the end of the year. The total unspent for these members was £7,758, which meant that £2,758 was not carried forward. A proposal to carry forward £39,000 into 2012/13 was approved by the Committee as part of the draft management accounts report.
 10. The rules of the scheme provide in the year of a County Council election, no commitments, payments or related publicity may be undertaken from the date of publication of the Notice of Election until after polling day. This will next come into effect in March 2013.

Other Options Considered

11. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The report is for noting.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report be noted

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments

14. Because this report is for noting only no Constitutional Comments are required

Financial Comments (MB 27/06/12)

15. The total amount available for awards in 2012/13 is £709,000.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All