



**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP MANAGER SAFER AND ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES**

ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL GRANT AID IN 2012-13

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to:
 - Establish a 'Community Chest' scheme
 - Invite applications for grant aid support from the community and voluntary sector Community Chest Grant Aid application

Information and Advice

2. At its last meeting Members of this Sub Committee discussed options for allocating the remaining unallocated grant aid budget of £68,000 for 2012/13. Members expressed a preference for establishing a 'Community Chest' scheme which would aim to encourage applications from groups to support activities which benefit their communities.
3. Community groups and voluntary organisations across Nottinghamshire provide a whole host of activities and services which support their communities. These groups are often enthusiastic to do more to meet the demands and needs of their communities, but their ambitions are often constrained by available resource. It is proposed to establish a 'Community Chest' scheme, which gives local organisations a chance to continue doing what they do best or bid for funding for something they would otherwise be able to do.
4. It is suggested that the funding could be used for a range of purposes including events, or for the purchase of equipment, however the ideas should come from the communities themselves, based on what they feel their neighbourhood needs.
5. The aims of the Scheme would be:
 - To support voluntary and community groups/organisation to deliver services which will make an impact in the community
 - To support one-off initiatives that are seen as valuable but were not able to secure mainstream funding from the Council or other service providers.
 - To provide an easily accessible process of funding support.

6. The Scheme will be designed to support organisations and groups which benefit the community and the following conditions and tests will be applied:
- Any proposal must support the Council's strategic priorities as outlined in the application form.
 - Any proposal must not be in conflict with any existing national government or local Council policies (e.g. equality and diversity policies).
 - Proposals which contain any provision of financial assistance –that will in turn support small grants to community and/or individuals will not be supported
7. The total funding available to support this scheme is £68,000 and it is proposed that the following conditions are placed on accessing the funding:
- Individual Grants will not exceed £5,000
 - There is no minimum amount for grants.
 - Applications must demonstrate financial need
8. Each application will be submitted on a simple standardised application form. Additional information may be provided to support the application if appropriate (e.g. business plan where one exists, confirmation of match funding if relevant etc).
9. Once the proposal and applicant are deemed eligible, it will be considered on its merits and assessed against the following criteria:
- There is a clear rationale and evidence of need.
 - The proposal adds value.
 - The benefits to the community are clear.
 - The proposal contributes to the priorities of the County Council which appear in the Application Form.
 - Appropriate match funding to be demonstrated to add value to the project (e.g. Members Small Grant Scheme for capital projects, Parish/Town Council funding). Match funding can include in-kind support.
 - The applicant group/organisation is able to demonstrate their ability to deliver activity successfully.
10. It is proposed that an application round runs from September 2012 to November 2012 and that the Grant Aid Sub Committee Meeting in January 2013 consider applications

Other Options Considered

11. Members discussed a number of options at the July 19th meeting of this Sub Committee and agreed that a 'Community Chest' Scheme be explored

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. As part of the County Council's response to the difficult financial climate facing public service delivery in the coming years, the Grant Aid Strategy 2011-15 has

been developed committing to a more mature and robust relationship with the VCS. The implementation of the strategy is an organic and dynamic process allowing for transparency and a meaningful dialogue. To reflect this, it is recommended that the scheme outlined above is approved

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

14. It is recommended that:

Members agree to establish a 'Community Chest' scheme for 2012/13 and to invite applications from the community and voluntary sector.

Chris Walker

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 30/8/12)

15. The grant aid sub-committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

Financial Comments (DD 30/8/12)

16. The proposed expenditure can be met from the current years' budget provision.

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ALL