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*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

## **COMMUNITY GRANT AID SCHEME 2013/14 REVIEW**

*Contact Officers: Paul Nanji 01494 732110*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**To report on the 2013/14 Community Grant Scheme and feedback key outcomes.**

**World War 1 commemorative projects to be approved an additional key priority when assessing applications from 2014 - 2018.**

### **Relationship to Council Objectives**

*Objective 2 – Safe, healthy and cohesive communities*

### **Implications**

- (i) This is not a key decision.*
- (ii) Within the policy and budgetary framework.*

### **Financial Implications**

*There is sufficient Community Grant funding available to meet the recommendations in this report.*

### **Risk Implications**

*None*

### **Equalities Implications**

*Support to the voluntary sector assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities.*

### **Sustainability Implications**

*Support to the voluntary sector assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities and in building sustainable communities, through empowering community action. Projects funded through the community grants programme support community participation that impacts positively a number of key objectives including community cohesion, health and wellbeing, the local environment and community safety.*

## **Background**

- 1 Chiltern District Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme has been in operation for over ten years supporting a diverse range of local voluntary organisations. Following the completion of the 2012 Community Grant Aid Scheme, Cabinet requested a review of the scheme to focus on simplifying the application form, increasing member involvement and developing a more consistent scoring process. (**See Appendix 1**)
- 2 The new arrangements were introduced for the 2013/2014 scheme and included;
  - a. A new streamlined application form
  - b. Members invited to feedback on projects delivered in their own respective wards
  - c. A traffic light evaluation system highlighting how each application supports the Council's key corporate objectives in relation to developing community capacity, improving health, supporting the local economy, enhancing community cohesion, protecting the environment and improving community safety
- 3 The report informs how the new scheme has been received by local community groups along with other key outcomes in relation to the range and diversity of applications received.

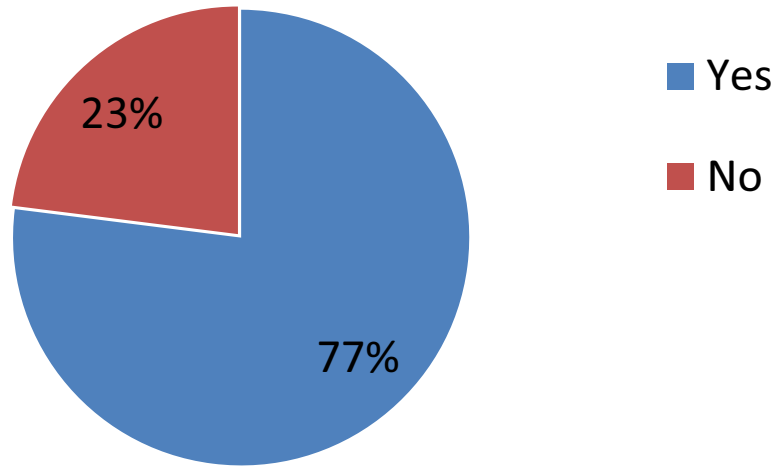
## **Key Outcomes of the New Scheme**

- 4 Outcomes arising as a result of the new Community Grant Aid scheme have been positive on a number of fronts. A total of fifty three applications were received, the highest number since the scheme commenced. The diversity of applications was broad with projects supporting young people, older people, community capital schemes, the local economy and the environment.
- 5 Feedback regarding the quality of information to complete the new application form was positive with 77% of respondents reporting that the revised application form as being easier to complete. (see graph 1)
- 6 The quotes below capture this positive feedback in more detail.

*“This updated form was certainly more straightforward and concise than the previous one. The previous application form seemed rather confusing when it came to answers about the Chiltern District Council objectives and how our work matched the local aims etc. I liked this new one much better.” (Relate)*

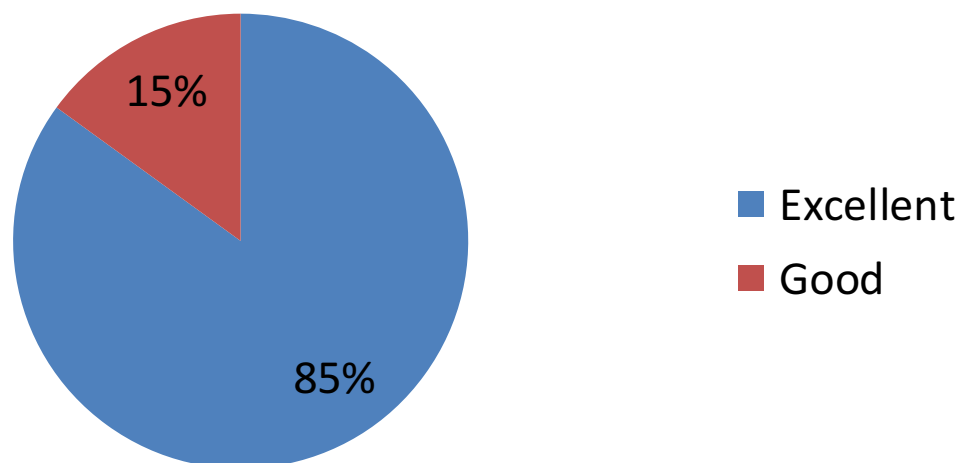
*"I was impressed by the clarity of the web application, particularly the flow of questions. It was more logical than many others I have used."  
(Amersham Rugby Club)*

**Graph 1 - Was the New Application Easier to Complete**



- 7 The quality of service organisations received when applying for funding was very positive with 85 % of respondents classing the quality of service received as excellent and the remaining 15% as good. (Graph 2) The increase level of enquiries from community organisations placed additional pressure on staff who effectively responded in a prompt and informative manner.

## Graph 2 - The Quality of Service Received From Chiltern District Council Staff



- 8 The application process enabled Members to be more involved in the scheme not only feeding back their views on applications but also being made aware of the diverse range of activities that are delivered within their respective wards. The new traffic light scoring system facilitated this process clearly showing how each application supported the Council's key corporate aims.

### Conclusion

- 9 Positive feedback and an increased number of application forms demonstrate the new scheme has been well received by local community groups and Members.
- 10 This new scheme also attracted a diverse range of applications and enabled members to have a direct input into any applications delivered within their local wards.
- 11 Given that local communities will be organising events and/or projects to commemorate World War 1 it is proposed that the new application includes World War 1 events as an additional consideration in prioritising which organisations receive funding from 2014 until 2018.

### *Background Papers:*

*Appendix 1 - 2012/13 Community Grants Member Summary +Report*

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