

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Chiltern Community Grant Awards 2016-2017</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Councillor Graham Harris – Cabinet Member for Community, Health &amp; Housing</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt</i>
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

To agree funding grant awards from the Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme 2016/2017.

### RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet agree the allocation of funding awards from the 2016/17 Community Grant Aid Scheme as detailed in Appendix 1.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Chiltern District Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme has been in operation for over ten years, supporting a diverse range of local voluntary organisations to improve services and facilities for local residents. The Council's grant awards process was reviewed in 2012 following Members feedback which resulted in a more customer friendly application process, increased Member involvement and a more consistent scoring process. The agreed Community Grant scheme is detailed on the Council's website and identifies how applications will be assessed. [Community Grants](#) Members also agreed to formally support local community organisations whose projects directly support commemorating the centenary of WW1 up until 2018.
- 2.2 The scheme attracts external funding and supports local voluntary and community organisation deliver a diverse and exciting range of services enabling local residents to;
  - 2.2.1 Connect with others in the community
  - 2.2.2 Be Active by participating in sports or community activities
  - 2.2.3 Take Notice of what is going on in the community
  - 2.2.4 Learn new skill or pass on their skills to others
  - 2.2.5 Give through volunteering

### 3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.3 Chiltern District has a strong and active voluntary sector and consequently the Council's Community Grant Aid scheme attracts a high volume of applications. Therefore only projects that directly support the Council's key corporate objectives, namely, improve health and well-being, reduce anti-social behaviour, develop volunteers, enhance the local environment and support the local economy are considered for funding.

### 4. Content of Report

- 4.1 This year's scheme attracted thirty six applications that collectively requested funding totalling £49,001. The cumulative value if all the applicants' schemes were delivered totalled £230,078, which would be achieved by applicants accessing funding from other grant awarding bodies, running internal fundraising events and utilising their own internal reserves.
- 4.2 To provide a fair and consistent approach, all applications were assessed and evaluated with their overall quality categorised as Green, Amber or Red. Using this assessment approach results in the Council awarding £32,488 to thirty three different community organisations.
- 4.3 All application forms have been placed in the Members' Room (since 7th July 2016) along with a summary report highlighting each applicant's key strengths and weaknesses along with associated councillor comments
- 4.4 The total grant fund available for Chiltern's Community Grant Aid scheme is £32,000 which includes a £2,000 contribution from the Community Safety budget. The high volume and improved quality of applications has resulted in the decision making process being even more challenging. The £838 overspend which includes the Bucks & Milton Keynes Village Association will be financed from the internal Community Services budget,
- 4.5 All applications were arranged into three distinct categories. Those attaining the **Green** standard (Appendix 1, Table 1), strongly support four of the Council's key objectives, have support from their local ward councillor(s) and have successfully secured additional external funding. It is proposed that applicants achieving Green status receive 90% of their requested grant apart from those requesting £500 or less who will receive 100% funding. Applicants achieving **Amber** status (Appendix 1, Table 2), support three of the Council's objectives and have support from their local ward councillor(s) receive up to 60% of their grant request. Applicants classified as **Red** status (Appendix 1, Table 3) do not strongly support the Council's objectives, have limited or no match funding, have limited/no councillor support and/or can secure funding from an alternative source receive no funding.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 The community grant process involves ongoing consultation with the local voluntary sector to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets community needs. Also the Council's Community Policy Advisory Group have already reviewed the report's recommendations and incorporated their views into this report for Cabinet to consider.

## **6. Options**

- 6.1 Not to accept the report's recommendations and propose alternative options of grant awards to community groups.
- 6.2 Endorse the report's recommendations in accordance to the evaluation process agreed by Cabinet in 2012.

## **7. Corporate Implications**

- 6.3 Financial – There is sufficient funding available within the Community Grant budget to meet the recommendations in this report.
- 6.4 Environmental – Several projects have a positive impact in helping protect the local environment.
- 6.5 Equalities - Support to the voluntary sector and helps assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities.

## **8. Links to Council Objectives**

*Work towards safer and healthier local communities*

*Improve Community Safety*

- Work with partners to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

*Promote healthier communities*

- Address the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable

*Promote local communities*

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering

*Strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability*

- Promote energy efficiency and encourage the reduction of carbon emissions

## **9 Next Step**

Subject to Cabinet approval allocate community grant awards as detailed in Appendix 1.