

SUBJECT:	<i>Chiltern Community Grant Awards 2017-2018</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Elizabeth Walsh – Cabinet Member for Community, Health & Housing</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To agree funding grant awards for the Council's 2017/18 Community Grant Aid Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet agree the allocation of awards from the 2017/18 Community Grant Aid Scheme as detailed in Appendix 1.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Chiltern District Council's Community Grant Aid Scheme plays an important role in supporting a diverse range of local voluntary organisations to improve services and facilities for local residents. The grant scheme has helped build and enhance Chiltern's already strong community infrastructure as well as raise the Council's standing as a supporter of the local voluntary sector.

2.2 The scheme also attracts additional external funding and supports local voluntary and community organisations to deliver a diverse range of services enabling local residents to;

- **Connect** with others in the community
- **Be Active** by participating in sports or community activities
- **Take Notice** of what is going on in the community
- **Learn** new skills or pass on their skills to others
- **Give** through volunteering

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Chiltern District's active voluntary sector ensures that the Community Grant Aid scheme always attracts a high volume of applications. Therefore, to fairly prioritise applications only projects that directly support the Council's key corporate objectives, namely, improving community safety, promoting healthy communities, promoting cohesive communities, conserving the environment and promoting sustainability are considered for funding.

4. Content of Report

- .1 This year's scheme attracted thirty three applications (Appendix 1) that collectively requested funding totalling £49,391. The cumulative value if all the applicants' schemes were delivered totalled £235,197 which would be achieved by applicants accessing funding from other grant awarding bodies, running internal fundraising events and utilising their own internal reserves.
- .2 To provide a fair and consistent approach, all applications were assessed and evaluated with their overall quality categorised as being Green, Amber or Red. Using this assessment approach results in the Council awarding £32,584 to thirty two different community organisations.
- .3 All application forms have been placed in the Members' Room (04.08.17) along with a summary report highlighting each applicant's key strengths and weaknesses along with associated Councillor comments.
- .4 The total grant fund available for Chiltern's Community Grant Aid scheme is £32,584 which includes a £2,000 contribution from the Community Safety and £584 from the Communities budgets. The high volume and improved quality of applications has resulted in the decision making process being even more challenging.
- .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.
 - **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.
 - **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 Services Committee feedback is involved in the evaluation process with the group's views passed onto 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.

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 **Financial** – There is sufficient funding available within the community grant, community safety and general community budgets to meet the recommendations detailed in this report.
- 7.2 **Environmental** – Several projects have a positive impact in helping protect the local environment.
- 7.3 **Equalities** - Support to the voluntary sector and helps assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities.

8. Links to Council Objectives

Work towards safer, healthier and cohesive 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 cohesive communities

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering

Strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

9 Next Step

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