

SUBJECT:	<i>Chiltern Community Grant Awards 2019-2020</i>
RELEVANT MEMBER:	<i>Councillor Elizabeth Walsh – Cabinet Member for Community, Health & Housing</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
REPORT AUTHORS	<i>Paul Nanji (01494) 732110 Paul.nanji@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk Joanne Fowler (01494) 732103 joanne.fowler@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To agree funding grant awards for the Council's 2019/2020 Community Grant Aid Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet agree the allocation of funding awards from the 2019/20 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. This year's scheme has been further strengthened by increasing the level of grant funding from £32k to £80k and also raising the maximum amount of grant award from £2,000 to £5,000.

2.2 The scheme also helps lever in a considerable amount of 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's strong and 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

- 4.1 This year's scheme attracted a record number of fifty one applications (Appendix 1) that collectively requested funding totalling £171,195. The cumulative value if all the received applicants' schemes were delivered totalled £591,254 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 being Green, Amber or Red. Using this assessment approach resulted in the Council awarding £82,438 to forty different community organisations. The additional commitment of £2,438 will be met from existing budgetary provision within the service budget.
- 4.3 All application forms were placed in the Members' Room (29.07.19) 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 £80,000. The high volume and improved quality of applications resulted in the decision making process being even more challenging.
- 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 70% 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 50% 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, are not awarded funding.

5. Consultation

5.1 The community grant process involves on-going consultation with the local voluntary sector to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets community needs. Also the Council's Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group Committee feedback is inputted into the evaluation process with the group's views passed onto Cabinet to formally endorse and agree.

6. Options

6.1 Not support 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, environmental and general community budgets to fund the recommendations detailed in this report. Additionally the proposed applicant schemes lever in a significant amount of external funds into the local voluntary sector.

7.2 Environmental – A range of the community grant applications 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 Steps

If approved by Cabinet funding to be allocated from the Community Grant Aid Scheme as detailed in Appendix 1.