

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	COMMUNITY CHEST 2020/21 ROUND 2
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	19 JANUARY 2021
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND HOMES

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
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None
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<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
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<p>Community Chest is the council's small grant scheme and currently awards grants of up to £2,500 to community groups and small voluntary organisations and social enterprises in the city with annual incomes of less than £250,000. Grants are awarded twice a year under delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, following recommendations from the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel. The budget for 2020/21 is £100,000, which is divided approximately equally between the two rounds.</p>
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<p>The Celebrations grant scheme is a sub-section of the Community Chest grant and offers grants up to £500. Applicants may apply for both the Community Chest and Celebrations grants, providing it is for different events/activities. Unlike the main Community Chest grant scheme, there is no income cap on applicants to the Celebrations grant scheme and any voluntary, community and social enterprise organisation can apply.</p>
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<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
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|  | (i) | To agree the recommendations for 2020/21 round 2 grants made by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel |
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<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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| 1. | All the applications have been considered by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel, which has made recommendations on which should receive funding. All applications recommended for funding contribute to at least one of the council's priority outcomes and will enable the applicants to provide activities for the benefit of their communities. |
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<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>
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2.	The option of not recommending funding was considered and rejected as it would not meet the council's aims of supporting local people to engage in community action.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
3.	Community Chest is the council's small grants scheme and has been running for more than 35 years. It is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of local community groups. All grant funded projects, events and activities must contribute to at least one of the council's four priority outcomes. Since 2019 a smaller grant has also been available for community celebration events that bring different people together.
4.	Currently both grant schemes have two rounds per financial year, six months apart, with the budget split roughly equally between both rounds. In 2020/21 the overall budget available is £104,000. This is comprised of £100,000 main budget plus an additional £4,000 from the Community Asset Transfer of Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre – see paragraph 9 for more detail.
5.	The decision maker for both grant schemes is the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, following recommendations by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel. Members of the Panel represent wards across the city and there is also a fair gender balance. Panel members arrive at their recommendations through consensus.
6.	Each application is first checked by a technical appraiser to ensure both the project and the applicant meet the Community Chest or Celebrations Grant criteria and minimum standards for grant funding. Further information or clarification is requested where necessary. All applications are then submitted to the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel for consideration.
7.	Applications for round two of the 2020/21 Community Chest and Celebrations grant schemes were submitted by 31 October 2020. In total 28 Community Chest applications were received. No applications were received for the Celebrations Grant scheme; however, this was expected as it is not possible to hold large community events at present due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The total requested was £61,141. The Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel met on 2 December 2020 to consider all 28 applications.
8.	<p>The Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel has recommended full or partial funding for 23 applications, totalling £48,296. Of the five applications that are not being recommended for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 applications were either missing documents or information. The Panel recommends these applicants are invited to re-submit applications in the next round.</li> <li>• 1 application is recommended to be declined as the Panel felt the proposed activity is more suitable for commercial enterprise funding than community grants</li> </ul>
9.	Following the successful Community Asset Transfer of the Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre in 2019, it was agreed under the terms of the transfer that £4,000 would be re-invested back in to the community through Community Chest. The funding was ring-fenced for activities that benefit residents living in the Freemantle and Shirley wards and part of Millbrook ward (between Shirley Road and Regent's Park Road), which forms the

	community centre's area of benefit. Two applications met the criteria and it is proposed to award £2,000 to each application from this funding, with the remainder topped up from the main Community Chest budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 – Shirley Men's Shed</li> <li>• 42 – Shirley Warren Action Church</li> </ul>
10.	A list of all applications with full details of the recommendations and reasons why for each one is attached at Appendix 1.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
11.	In 2020/21 the Community Chest budget (including the Celebrations Grant) is £100,000, split approximately equally between two rounds. In 2020/21 there is a one-off addition of £4,000 to the budget from the transfer of Freemantle and Shirley Community Centre (see paragraph 9). In round one grants totalling £31,512 were awarded, leaving £72,488 for round two.
12.	Since Round One two grants have been returned. Friends of Portswood Rec received a Celebrations grant of £495 but have been unable to hold the event and have therefore returned the funding. Southmasks CV19 have decided to wind up the organisation and have therefore returned their grant of £2,453. This makes the total available budget for round two £75,436.
13.	The total recommended for round 2 is £48,296, leaving £27,140 unallocated. Officers in the Stronger Communities team have been working with the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities to develop proposals for allocating this funding to best support community activities in the city. An update will be provided at the Cabinet meeting.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
14.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
15.	The legal power for the Council to establish, administer and make awards from the Community Chest grant fund is provided by the Localism Act 2011. Subject to certain statutory restrictions, none of which apply in this case, Section 1 gives the Council "power to do anything that individuals may do" which includes making grant funding contributions to worthwhile projects and activities that supports the work of the Council and / or contributes to the wellbeing or benefit of the community or city residents.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
16.	In awarding grants under this scheme the Council has had regard to the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010, including the need to assess all applications having regard to the public sector equality duty set out in s.149 of the Act and to ensure that the application process is fair, transparent and designed to eliminate unlawful discrimination against those who have protected characteristics. Grants are also assessed having regard to s.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the extent to which they contribute to the elimination of crime and disorder in the City together with all other relevant legislation.

<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
17.	The risks of fully funding, part funding or not funding each application were considered as part of the Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel's discussions. The impact of COVID-19 on the proposed activities was also considered. The recommendations listed in Appendix 1 are considered to be low risk.
18.	All grants will be awarded on condition that the activities/events are carried out in line with government guidance about COVID-19, to ensure the safety of everyone involved.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
19.	The recommendations in this paper support the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy (City Strategy), the Council Strategy 2016-2020, key partnership strategies such as the Safe City Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as Level 1 strategies of the Council.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	List of recommendations for Community Chest grant 2020/21 Round 2
2.	

#### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	Approach to Voluntary Sector Funding, Equality and Safety Cumulative Impact Assessment – updated December 2020	
2.	Data Protection Impact Assessment – updated December 2020	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>		<b>Yes</b>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>		
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>		<b>Yes</b>
<b>Other Background Documents</b>		
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>	
1.		
2.		