

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR GREEN CITY AND ENVIRONMENT		
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS 2019/20 ROUND 2		
DATE OF DECISION:	11 FEBRUARY 2020		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF QUALITY AND INTEGRATION		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Joanne Hughes	Tel: 023 8083 4067
	E-mail:	joanne.hughes@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Stephanie Ramsey	Tel: 023 8029 6941
	E-mail:	stephanie.ramsey@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>Community Chest is the council's small grant scheme and currently awards grants of up to £2,500 to community groups in the city. Grants are awarded twice a year under delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Green City and Environment, following recommendations from the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel. The budget for the year is £100,000, which is divided approximately equally between the two rounds.</p>			
<p>Early in 2019 it was decided to offer mini-grants for community celebration events as a sub-section of Community Chest. The Celebration Grants offers grants up to £500 and applicants may apply for both the Community Chest and Celebration grants, providing it is for different events/activities.</p>			
<p>Applications to both grants are accepted from local community groups and small voluntary organisations for a wide range of projects and community events which contribute at least one to the council's four priority outcomes.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	To agree the recommendations for 2019/20 round 2 grants made by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel	
	(ii)	To award the remainder of the funding to Southampton Voluntary Services, as a grant, to distribute to local community and voluntary organisations.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
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.		
2.	The council has promoted the grants throughout the year but not received enough applications to award the whole budget. A different approach is needed to ensure all local communities benefit from this funding. As the local voluntary and community sector infrastructure support service, Southampton		

	Voluntary Services reaches organisations who have little or no contact with the council.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
3.	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.
4.	The options of using the remainder of the funding available for a Mayflower 400 grant scheme was considered and rejected as the council already has plans for this via the Events and Festivals grant scheme.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
5.	Community Chest is the council's small grants scheme and has been running for more than 30 years. It is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of local community groups. Projects/activities must contribute to at least one of the council's four priority outcomes. In January 2019 the Celebrations Grant was added as a sub-section of Community Chest, to provide small grants for community celebration events that bring different people together.
6.	Both grant schemes have two rounds this year, six months apart, with the budget split roughly equally between both rounds. In 2019/20 the overall budget available is £100,000. The decision maker for both grant schemes is the Cabinet Member for Green City and Environment, following recommendations by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel.
7.	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.
8.	Applications for round two of the 2019/20 Community Chest and Celebrations grant schemes were submitted by 31 October 2019. In total 36 applications were received – 26 for Community Chest and 10 for the Celebrations Grant. The total requested was £56,674. The Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel met on 9 January 2020 to consider all 36 applications.
9.	The Grant Advisory Panel has recommended full or partial funding for 30 applications, totalling £42,286. As there was enough funding available, the Panel choose to round up many of the applications recommended for full funding to nearest £100. Of the 7 applications that are not being recommended for funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 applications are recommended to be declined because they do not meet the criteria for funding • 4 applications are recommended to be declined due to missing documents or information, meaning the Panel could not make an informed recommendation • 1 application was withdrawn by the applicant as they had been successful with another funding bid for the project
10.	These recommendations, added to the grants awarded in round one, leave £21,356 available in the budget. The Panel considered upcoming significant events and the council's priorities and have recommended this funding is

	used for two grant schemes – for VE Day events, projects and activities and Green City events, projects and activities. As the council has not attracted enough applications this year on its own a different approach has been proposed to ensure local communities benefit from this funding. The Panel have recommended the funding is awarded to Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS) to distribute to local community and voluntary organisations through small grants. SVS has experience in running community grant schemes and ensuring applications meet appropriate criteria and standards for funding. It also has a wide reach across the city, including to organisations that have little or no contact with the council. In addition, SVS is the lead provider in the SO:Linked service, a partnership of organisations providing support to local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations. Details of how this funding is distributed will reported back to the Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel and in a future Community Chest report.
11.	A list of all applications with full details of the recommendations and reasons why for each one is attached at Appendix 1.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
12.	The total Community Chest budget for the year (including the Celebrations Grant) is £100,000, split approximately equally between two rounds. In round one grants totalling £36,358 were awarded after an appeal at Cabinet by one applicant, leaving £63,642 for round two. The grants recommended in this report total £63,642.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
13.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
14.	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.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
15.	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.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
16.	The risks of fully funding, part funding or not funding each application were considered as part of the Grant Advisory Panel's discussions. The recommendations listed in Appendix 1 are considered to be low risk.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
17.	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.
KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	List of recommendations for Community Chest grant 2019/20 Round 2
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	Approach to Voluntary Sector Funding, Equality and Safety Cumulative Impact Assessment – updated January 2020
2.	Data Protection Impact Assessment – updated January 2020
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None