

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY FUND AND COMMUNITY CHEST GRANT CRITERIA
DATE OF DECISION:	18 OCTOBER 2021
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR VASSILIOU CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND HERITAGE

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
Not Applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY
<p>Southampton City Council has a long history of supporting the contribution of the voluntary and community sector in the City with grants, procurement and commissioning and other help in kind. This report details the criteria and process for accepting and determining awards for the new Community Fund, approved at Full Council in July 2021.</p> <p>The Community Fund that was approved at Full Council in July 2021 is aimed at supporting community and voluntary sector groups and organisations to support young people and reduce the incidence and opportunity for anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The Fund will be managed and overseen by the Community Cohesion Team, Stronger Communities. Management of the Community Fund has a strong fit with the objectives of the service, which includes strategic oversight of the local Safe City Partnership and Violence Reduction Unit.</p> <p>The proposals include the creation of three component schemes within the Community Fund as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Communities Fund - (£40,000 over two years) • Protecting Communities Fund - (£100,000 over two years) • Youth Fund - (£280,000 over two years) <p>With other funds allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £20,000 to extend immediate Youth Outreach work in the West of the City and develop community-based local youth work

- £50,000 for a multi-purpose engagement vehicle for outreach work in key sites across the City
- £10,000 (over two years) for communications, promotional and engagement work with young people. The Total sum to be awarded over two years is £500,000

A Community Grants and Fundraising post was created in April 2021 as part of the Stronger Communities Team redesign. The post holder will be responsible for the administration of all grants currently within the Culture Communities and Homes portfolio including:

- Community Chest
- Violence Reduction Unit
- Community Safety
- Cultural and Heritage organisations
- Events
- Public Health community grants and
- Community Fund

There have been challenges to the recruitment to this post, but an interim solution has now been put in place to ensure the smooth running of future grant administration across all Community Grant Funding processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	Agree the criteria and process for applications to the Community Fund as set out in Appendix One.
	(ii)	Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Communities, Culture, and Homes following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Heritage to determine the outcome of Community Fund applications.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	The Council is committed to continuing to support community, voluntary and social enterprises and others through grant funding that supports the ambitions and priorities of the Council as laid out in its Corporate Plan and aligned strategies. In July 2021, the Council approved a budget of £500,000 over two years to support community, sport, youth, resident and other organisations to access funding to support the delivery of youth and diversionary activities, as well as environmental changes that may impact on the incidence of anti-social behaviour and provide alternative activities for young people.
2.	The Council is committed to making the process for accessing this temporary fund as streamlined and agile as possible so that more support can be provided to applicants in terms of promotion, advice at the point of application, and oversight of the grants once awarded.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3.	Apply the current Community Chest Grant Process to the Community Fund: The Community Chest Grant process also operated by the Stronger Communities Team is used to process applications twice yearly, for a much smaller, longer term fund. This option has been considered and is not recommended as it is inconsistent with the application of a larger and temporary fund, with the need to allocate all funds by March 2023. It is therefore not
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	proposed as the ability of the council to respond would be less agile, whilst reducing the ability of the Team to engage with potential applicants' pre-application and those awarded grants, post award.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
4	<p>In administering this fund, the Stronger Communities Team will work with the Council's Communications Team to design and deliver a communications plan to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's commitment to address anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the allocation of the Community Fund is made clear and that the aim is to achieve positive outcomes for our residents • Grant Funding rounds (including Community Chest, Events and others) are published effectively • Funded activities or improvements are celebrated and promoted, including through regional and national media • That decisions about awards are fully published and available for public scrutiny • That the outputs and outcomes from grant funding are monitored and where possible included in any evaluations of effectiveness <p>This will be undertaken, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage, the Council's Communication Team and the successful applicant themselves.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Safety Assessment has been completed that indicates there are no negative impacts that will adversely impact on the protected characteristics of residents.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
5.	The budget for the Community Fund was agreed by Council in July 2021. The proposals in this report set out the governance arrangements surrounding the Fund itself and is aligned to budget envelope of £0.5M agreed across 2021/22 and 2022/23.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
6.	Applications to the Protecting Communities Fund will require a panel of relevant SCC Depts such as Property, City Services and Housing, as well as partners (including Police) to review applications and ensure suggested works comply with legislation and policy. Any approved works will be costed and resourced with the involvement of the SCC Depts.
7.	Stronger Communities is appointing a Grant Funding Officer who will manage and oversee the Grant Funding rounds, award, grant monitoring and administration.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	

8.	Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 permits a council to do anything that an individual may do whether or not normally undertaken by a local authority (the General Power of Competence). The power is subject to any pre or post commencement restrictions on the use of the power (none of which apply in this case).
Other Legal Implications:	
9.	The Council recognises its equalities duties and in making decisions will pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality and to undertake Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIAs). An ESIA has been undertaken which does not identify any detrimental impacts for communities or residents with protected characteristics. The fund has the potential to benefit communities positively. The Executive Director for Communities, Culture and Homes will be mindful of this when making a decision to award a grant.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
10.	Insufficient applications to use the whole fund; Effective communication of grant funding rounds, through Webinars and promotion of the funds and what they are setting out to achieve, including effective communications with our Elected Members
11.	Poor performance from Groups awarded funding; Clear performance reporting and expected outcomes/achievements will be documented in the Grant Agreements with the Stronger Communities Team monitoring this.
12.	Misuse of Grant Funds by Groups; Criteria will be set for funds to ensure that only suitable organisations, groups or charities are awarded grants, with relevant checks being made where required
13.	Projects are not supported or cause a negative impact on communities; Involvement of the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage and community engagement will ensure applications meet with local need and address relevant local issues for communities. The Panel for the Protecting Communities Fund (see Appendix One) will ensure that relevant technical advice is sought before any scheme goes ahead. Data on Crime and ASB will be included in briefings for applicants
14.	Appeal or complaint to the LGSO about an award or decision not to award; Clear criteria and clear record keeping of decision making and process and publication of all awards is published at https://www.southampton.gov.uk/people-places/grants-funding/grants-awarded/
15	Funding is withdrawn because of other SCC priorities. The Community Fund agreed budget is allocated for this purpose, with Full Council approval. Any change to this would form part of future Council decision making and budget setting including potentially, consultation.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	

16	Grant recommendations relate to the relevant Policy Framework plans and the services provided by the grant-aided organisations will assist the Council in meeting the overall aims of its policy framework including the objectives set out in the Southampton City Council Corporate Plan 2021 to 2025.
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KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Community Fund Grant Criteria
2.	Equalities and Safety Impact Assessment

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	
2.	

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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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.	
2.	