

Ward Community Grant Scheme

1. Background

- 1.1 For many years the Council has set aside a Community Grants Fund to support bids from local groups for small sums to assist with community projects or to further the aims of a community group.
- 1.2 Historically grants have been awarded following an application process and determined by the Cabinet Member for Concessions and Community Support.
- 1.3 This report proposes to make £6,500 of the current year's Community Grant Fund budget available to support a pilot scheme whereby Ward Councillors play a greater role in sponsoring community and voluntary groups in their own Wards.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The details of the proposed pilot scheme are set out in Appendix 1 to this report overleaf.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The total allocation for grants during the pilot period will be £500 per ward per year from the existing Community Grants Fund. This will account for £6,500 from the existing budget and will therefore not require any additional allocation of funds or supplementary estimates.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Cabinet are requested to agree and endorse the adoption of a Ward Community Grant Scheme on a pilot basis as set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The Cabinet Member for Concessions and Community Support be required to review the effectiveness of this pilot scheme and report back to Cabinet by the 31st March 2017.

Ian Harrison
Corporate Director

WARD COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To empower Ward Councillors to play a greater role in sponsoring community and voluntary groups to enable them to achieve their local objectives.
- 1.2 In order to achieve this purpose, initially a pilot scheme will be introduced, making available a budget of up to £500 for community grants to local voluntary organisations, community groups and good causes within each electoral Ward.

2. How can an application be made

- 2.1 An application can be submitted by or through the Ward Councillors and it must be of benefit for the Ward. An application could be made for one-off projects, equipment/materials, individual events or to develop an organisation. A grant application should not usually be made to pay for day-to-day costs or general running costs of a group or scheme. Ideally, applications should show clear community benefits/need and demonstrate community support.
- 2.2 Applications should use a standard form and should normally be endorsed by all three Ward Councillors.

3. Processing applications

- 3.1 The Head of Community and Environmental Services will check applications to ensure that funding sources are not being duplicated from other sources and they are complete and clear. The level of any balances of the applicant will be taken into account in assessing need. The Cabinet Member for Concessions and Community Support will complete an executive decision form and reports will be made to Cabinet periodically on any grants awarded and refused.

4. Allocation of Grants

- 4.1 The total allocation for grants during the pilot period will be £500 per Ward per year from the existing Community Grants Fund. This will account for £6,500 from the existing budget.

5. Review of Pilot Period

- 5.1 The Cabinet Member for Concessions and Community Support will review the effectiveness of this pilot scheme and report to Cabinet by the 31st March 2017.