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**REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 6 FEBRUARY 2019****PORTFOLIO: FINANCE****REPORT FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & HOUSING SERVICES****SUBJECT: PROCESS FOR AWARDING VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2019/20****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 To agree the ongoing procedures for allocating the Voluntary Sector Grants fund for the financial year 2019/20 and that the process aligns outcomes with those local strategic priorities as detailed in the Council's Business Plan and the Joint Rochford and Castle Point Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS).
- 1.2 To agree that the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Services (RRAVS) will receive top sliced funding from the same pot, based on performance as the community connector and expert.

**2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Providing financial assistance to local community and voluntary organisations enables communities, helping to support a stronger third sector in the District.
- 2.2 By aligning outcomes more closely to the Council's Business Plan and HWBS outcomes, this will help generate information that enables us to understand the wider system impacts of the voluntary sector grants fund.

**3 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT REFERENCE No: 16/18****4 SALIENT INFORMATION**

For 2018/19 RRAVS received a £15,000 grant and a total of 15 awards were made in small grants ranging from £400 to £7,000. The current criteria for the voluntary sector grant process is wide and enables organisations to bid for funds for a variety of reasons, including maintenance of buildings, sustaining existing projects, and volunteer support. Examples of outcomes from the small grants awarded for 2018/19 are included in Appendix 1.

- 4.1 Applications for small grants for the financial year 2019/20 would remain open to all voluntary sector groups, with revenue funding for any one group being available up to a maximum of £1,000. No capital funding would be available.
- 4.2 All funding would be allocated subject to applicants demonstrating how their activities contribute to the District Council's business plan priority – Enabling Communities and how they align with the HWBS outcomes, which include:-

- reducing levels of overweight and obesity
  - Improving mental health and wellbeing (mental health, dementia, loneliness, child poverty/employment)
  - supporting people to lead independent lives
- 4.3 The process by which the grant decisions are made would remain unchanged with a Member Advisory Group appointed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance. The allocation of funding would be managed by using an agreed scoring system, which would ensure the process is consistent, open and transparent. Unsuccessful applicants would be signposted to other agencies that may be able to offer support. For example, the Big Lottery and Sport England.
- 4.4 It is intended that the funding to RRAVS will be top sliced from the overall pot and the Council would assess the application from RRAVS separately. RRAVS will be asked to provide information on how their service meets key strategic outcomes and the needs of local voluntary and community sector groups and local residents.
- 4.5 RRAVS would be asked to report quarterly on their performance and the organisations receiving small grant would complete an outcome monitoring form at the end of the financial year.
- 4.6 A provisional timeline is set out below:

Activity	Deadline
Decision by Executive on process for 2019/20	6 February
Open applications for small grants after budget allocation is set	18 February
Close small grants applications	15 March
Portfolio Holder to consult Member Advisory Group to determine RRAVS / small grant allocations from applications received	Late March

## 5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The risk of failing to link funding to wider strategic aims would reduce the Council's understanding of whether outcomes have been achieved and reduce its ability to gain a more system wide understanding of community focused and community driven activities.
- 5.2 There is little risk of local voluntary groups not being able to align their work and functions to local and Essex wide outcome focused priorities and

communication around activities at, for example, joint local Health and Wellbeing Board meetings, will mean good practice could be communicated more widely with other service areas.

- 5.3 Any delay in the small grants process is likely to inhibit local voluntary groups finalising their budget plans for 2019/20 and impact on the good relationships developed with local groups.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A final decision on the amount of funding to be allocated to the voluntary sector grants pot will be made by Full Council on 12 February 2019.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

No legal implications.

## **8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010. The EIA will be considered in determining the overall budget allocation.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

LT Lead Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Assistant Director – Community & Housing Services**

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### **Background Papers:-**

None.

For further information please contact Kelly Redston, Strategic Partnership Officer on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

## Appendix 1

**Voluntary Sector Grant Allocations 2018/19****RRAVS revenue grant allocation: £15,000**

Organisation	Use to which grant will be put	Target Audience / Specialism	Link(s) to Business Plan	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
Rochford Extended Services	To support 'All About Families' project	Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£990</b>
Rankins Cricket Club	To purchase automatic defibrillator	Whole community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£500</b>
Kaos Youth Club	Towards cost of activities break	Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Ashington Rochford	<b>£810</b>
SAFE (Supporting Asperger Families in Essex Together)	Towards costs of running AS/HFA group for girls in Rayleigh	Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£1000</b>
Great Waking Summer Playscheme	Towards running costs of Playscheme	Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£600</b>
Wyvern Community Transport	Towards the cost of reprinting information leaflets	Whole community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£500</b>
Changing Pathways	Towards the cost of running adult / child counselling service	Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£420</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Castlemount West Guide Company	Towards cost of storage for camping equipment	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Rayleigh	<b>£500</b>
Footprints Community Group	Towards cost of weekly dance sessions	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Rochford	<b>£800</b>

Organisation	Use to which grant will be put	Target Audience / Specialism	Link(s) to Business Plan	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
5 <sup>th</sup> Rayleigh Scout Group	To purchase camping equipment	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Rayleigh	<b>£1000</b>
Active Rochford	To deliver an Active 50+ project	Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention</li> <li>• Enable Communities</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£1000</b>
Megacentre Rayleigh	To replace entrance doors to building	Whole community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable communities</li> <li>• Early intervention</li> </ul>	Whole District	<b>£7420</b>
Old Peoples Welfare Committee Rochford	Towards cost of new mini bus	Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable communities</li> <li>• Early intervention</li> </ul>	Rochford	<b>£5000</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkwell Scout Group	Towards cost of new ply wood cladding for windows	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable communities</li> <li>• Early intervention</li> </ul>	Hawkwell	<b>£5100</b>
Hullbridge Community Association	To replace fire doors /glazing to family rooms	Whole Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable communities</li> </ul>	Hullbridge	<b>£5000</b>