
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 1 NOVEMBER 2017

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & HOUSING SERVICES

SUBJECT: PROCESS FOR AWARDING VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS 2018/19

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 To put in place a procedure for allocating the Voluntary Sector Grants fund for the financial year 2018/19 that is fair and transparent.
- 1.2 To open applications to the small grants scheme for all community and voluntary group
- 1.3 To confirm that the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Services (RRAVS) will receive top sliced funding from the same pot, based on previous performance.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Providing financial assistance to local community and voluntary organisations helps to generate a stronger third sector in the District.
- 2.2 Community and voluntary groups can assist in the delivery of the Council's Business Plan.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.1 Applications for small grants would be open to all voluntary sector groups that meet established criteria. Both revenue and capital funding will be available, with a maximum of £1,000 (revenue) and a minimum £5,000 (capital) that any one group can apply for. After the closing date, and once the overall budget allocation has been agreed, a Member Advisory Group appointed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance (comprising the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Leader of the main opposition group and three additional Members) will be consulted on allocating funding for the small grants scheme, using an agreed scoring system. All funding is allocated subject to applicants demonstrating how their activities contribute to the Council's Business Plan.
- 3.2 It is intended that the funding to RRAVS will be top sliced from the overall pot. As a major funder of this organisation, the Council will assess the application from RRAVS separately. RRAVS will be asked to provide additional information on how their service meets the needs of local voluntary and community sector groups and local residents. They will also need to evidence how their service complements the Council's Business Plan.

- 3.3 The RRAVS grant allocation would also be decided by the Portfolio Holder through the Member Advisory Group.
- 3.4 An initial sift of applications for the small grants fund will be undertaken by council officers. Assistance will be provided by RRAVS as the umbrella group representing the voluntary and community sector in the District.
- 3.5 A scoring system for assessing small grant applications will ensure the process is consistent, open and transparent. Applications will be measured against the Council's strategic aims. This is particularly important if any decisions are challenged. The advisory group will also receive details of applicants that are currently receiving rental subsidy or non-domestic rate relief, or any other support from the Council. Unsuccessful applicants will be signposted to other agencies that may be able to offer support e.g. National Lottery and Sport England.
- 3.6 A provisional timeline is set out below:

Activity	Deadline
Decision by Executive on process for 2018/19	1 November
Open applications for small grants	20 November
Close small grants applications	26 January
Total amount allocated to voluntary sector grants pot determined at Full Council budget setting session	13 February
Portfolio Holder to consult Member Advisory Group to determine RRAVS / small grant allocations from applications received	Post 13 February

- 3.7 For 2017/18 RRAVS received a £15,000 grant and a total of 32 awards were made in small grants ranging from £500 to £2,500. RRAVS are asked to report quarterly on their performance, and the organisations receiving small grants complete a monitoring form at the end of the financial year. Examples of outcomes from the small grants awarded for 2017/18 are included in Appendix 1.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any delay in making a decision is likely to inhibit local voluntary groups finalising their budget plans for 2018/19 and could potentially damage the Council's good relationships with local groups.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report sets out the proposed process by which individual grants will be allocated. A final decision on the total amount of funding to be allocated to

the voluntary sector grants pot will be made by Full Council on 13 February 2018.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS


6.1 None.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Equality Impact Assessment must be considered in determining the overall budget allocation.

7.2 An Equalities Monitoring Form will be included with application packs for each group to complete in order to develop a profile of the organisations applying for grant funding, though completion of the form will be optional.

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

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Andrew Lowing (Strategic Partnerships Officer) on:-

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

Organisation	Activity / Outcome	Target Audience / Specialism	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
Southend Achievement Through Football	To provide weekly football training sessions and football equipment Local young people involved in physical activity	Young people (Sport)	Rochford / Great Wakering	£1,000
Great Wakering Summer Playscheme	Towards pre-event purchases e.g. public liability insurance and event consumables Increase in families taking part in the scheme	Young people (Child activities)	Great Wakering	£500
Rochford Extended Services	Towards the cost of funding a Family Support Worker Additional layer of support to local families	Families (Family support)	Whole District	£985
4 th Rochford Scout Group	Towards cost of replacing doors and windows at Scout Hut Improved venue	Young people (Child activities)	Rochford	£1,500
Kaos Youth Club	Towards cost of Summer Camp Young people involved in physical activity	Young people (Child activities)	Rochford / Ashingdon	£1,046
2 nd Castlemount Guide Company	Towards running costs Young people involved in local activities	Young people (Child activities)	Rayleigh	£1,000

Organisation	Activity / Outcome	Target Audience / Specialism	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
Supporting Carers and Families Together	Towards cost of venue hire Young carers supported in their role	Young people (Child carers)	Rochford	£1,000
Stambridge Memorial Hall	To purchase fishing equipment Young people involved in local activities	Young people (Child activities)	Stambridge / Rochford	£700
Rayleigh Age Concern – Todman Centre	To replace carpeting in lounge, hallway and entrance Improved venue	Older People (Day centre)	Rayleigh	£1,500
Trustlinks Ltd	Equipment to run fitness activity groups. To cover sports trainer costs Support to local people with mental health needs	Mental Health Support (Mental Health)	Whole District	£2,500
PCC of Rayleigh	To replace faulty gas cooker Improved facilities at venue	Community provision (Community facility)	Rayleigh	£1,249
5 th Rayleigh Scout Group	To purchase new event shelters Enhanced equipment	Young people (Child activities)	Rayleigh	£512
Rochford Bowling Club	To purchase sprinkler heads, soil, turf and timber Improved facilities at venue	Community provision (Community facility)	Rochford	£1,500

Organisation	Activity / Outcome	Target Audience / Specialism	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
Castle Point Association of Voluntary Service – Befriending Scheme	To purchase computer equipment Improvements to equipment to carry out project	Older, Vulnerable People (Befriending)	Whole District	£1,000
Wyvern Community Transport	To pay for MiDAS training for drivers and to cover volunteer expenses Training completed and volunteers supported	Older, Vulnerable People (Community Transport)	Whole District	£1,000
Active Christian Trust	Towards cost of providing Family Fun Sessions Sessions held to support local families	Families (Family support)	Whole District	£1,000
Bar'N'Bus Trust	Towards cost of renovating bus. Towards cost of running service Enhanced service for young people	Young people (Wellbeing support)	Rayleigh	£2,500
Rankins Cricket Club	Towards cost of refurbishing two port-a-cabin containers Improved facilities	Community provision (Community facility)	Stambridge/ Rochford	£1,500
Equal People Performing Arts	Towards cost of renovating corridor / creation of personal care room Improved facilities	Community provision (Community facility)	Rayleigh	£1,500

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Footprints Community Association	Towards cost of supporting dance sessions Young people involved in physical activity	Young people (Child activities)	Rochford	£1,000
Active Rochford	To expand Active Colleagues project Improved wellbeing of local workforce	To work with the largest employers in the area to improve the health and wellbeing of their workforces (sport, health and wellbeing)	Whole District	£1,000
Hockley & Hawkwell Old Peoples Welfare Committee	To purchase new fixture for ladies and gents toilets. Also to re-decorate Improved facilities	Older People (Day centre)	Hockley	£500
Supporting Asperger Families in Essex	Towards cost of running AS/HFA sessions with girls and their parents Young people with condition issues supported	Young people (Child activities)	Whole District	£1,000
Hopeworx	To set up Hopeworx Essential Living Partnership Fund Local people experiencing hardship supported	Whole community	Whole District	£615

Organisation	Activity / Outcome	Target Audience / Specialism	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
1st Hullbridge Scout Group	To purchase 27 new buoyancy aids Young people involved in physical activity	Young people	Hullbridge	£800
Changing Pathways	Towards costs of counselling sessions Victims of domestic abuse supported	Domestic abuse victims	Whole District	£500
1st Hawkwell Scout Group	To purchase padlocks, two event shelters and 4 large tents Enhanced camping experience for local young people	Young people	Hawkwell	£910
Rochford Hockey Club	Coach development, pitch hire. Equipment: goalkeeper kit, training balls, match balls, training bibs, face masks, goal nets, 1st aid kit Improved equipment	Open to local community	Whole District	£1500
2nd Canewdon Scout Group	Towards purchasing benches, tables Improved facilities	Young people	Canewdon	£615
Hockley & District Royal British Legion	Towards cost of Automated External Defibrillator) Improved first aid equipment	Older People	Hockley	£922

Organisation	Activity / Outcome	Target Audience / Specialism	Supporting whole district or a particular area	Allocation
9th Castlemount East Guide Company	Towards purchase of one 8 man tent, one pop up tent, 4 camping tables Enhanced camping experience for local young people	Young people	Rayleigh	£609
Hawkwell Baptist Church	Towards cost of supplying welcome packs to the homeless Towards cost of fitting out unit to store goods. Local homeless people supported	Homeless	Whole District	£1537