



Rochford District
Council

REPORT TITLE:	VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS CROSS PARTY MEMBERS' PANEL DECISION
REPORT OF:	Executive Lead Member for Leisure, Tourism & Wellbeing

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Members on the work undertaken by officers to run the voluntary sector grants process and the support given to Members to review the pertinent information from applications and to contribute to the Members' panel decision for 2023-24 successful voluntary sector grants within the district.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Rochford District Council received 26 applications for voluntary sector grants this year. The panel was provided with the application's relevant information and a clear scoring process for their individual scores.
- 1.2 The panel for this year was made up of the following Members:
 - Cllr Mrs J R Gooding
 - Cllr L J Newport
 - Cllr A L Williams
 - Cllr J L Lawmon
 - Cllr Mrs D L Belton
 - Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

Cllr Mrs D P Squires-Coleman declined to participate due to existing commitments and no response was received from Cllr J E Cripps.

- 1.3 Members were asked not to score any applications with organisations they were active with and consider this a conflict of interest. The overall scores and a mean average score were not adversely impacted by any of these conflicts. This ensured a fair and independent process for all applications, made wholly on the information provided in the applications.
- 1.4 All Grants that scored a mean (average) score of more than 8 have met funding requirements and will be awarded full funding. Those next highest scoring applications that averaged 6.8 up to 8 will be awarded half funding This totals funding of £10000 awarded out of the £10000 available this year to 13 projects that work within the district.
- 1.5 Applicants that have failed in their application this year will be provided with alternative grant information.
- 1.6 The decision made by the panel was to award the following:

Organisation/Project	Amount Awarded
Supporting Carers and Families Together (SCAFT)	Full £1000 applied for awarded
Bar N Bus	Full £1000 applied for awarded
The Megacentre Rayleigh Cost of Living Hub@megacentre	Full £1000 applied for awarded
Blind and Sight Impaired Society (Basis)	Full £1000 applied for awarded
Trust Links	Full £1000 applied for awarded
East Essex Hackspace CIC	Full £1000 applied for awarded
SPACE	Full £1000 applied for awarded
Life Community Church (EPIC)	Half of what was applied for, £500 awarded
Cake Club CIO	Half of what was applied for, £500 awarded
The Megacentre Rayleigh – Youth support project	Half of what was applied for, £500 awarded
The Megacentre Rayleigh - Aging Well/ older peoples support Hub@megacentre	Half of what was applied for, £500 awarded
STRM - SEND the Right Message Charity	Half of what was applied for, £500 awarded
Rochford Town Sports & Social Club	Half of what was applied for, £500 awarded

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 All other costs are within existing budgets set aside for voluntary sector grants for this financial year.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Any work undertaken by the Council, either by itself or in partnership will be in line with statutory legal guidance.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 4.1 See under financial implications

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 Failed applications where possible are guided to other available funding available locally and countywide that may support the outcomes of the projects and support resilience in organisations within the district.

6.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Through the cross-party Members' decision panel.
- 6.2 Engagement of applicants to find alternative funding where possible.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and

sexual orientation. The Act states that ‘marriage and civil partnership’ is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

8.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct economic or environmental implications beyond those noted within the content of the report.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

VSG Process Paper to the Executive 13 January 2023

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Executive Group	13 January 2023