

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND HERITAGE		
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS 2021/22 ROUND 1		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 OCTOBER 2021		
REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND HOMES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
<p>Community Chest is the council’s small grant scheme and currently awards grants of up to £2,500 to community groups and small voluntary organisations and social enterprises in the city with annual incomes of less than £250,000. Grants are awarded twice a year under delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage, following recommendations from the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel. The annual budget is £50,000.</p>	
<p>The Celebrations grant scheme is a sub-section of the Community Chest grant and offers grants up to £500. Applicants may apply for both the Community Chest and Celebrations grants, providing it is for different events/activities. Unlike the main Community Chest grant scheme, there is no income cap on applicants to the Celebrations grant scheme and any voluntary, community and social enterprise organisation can apply.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) To agree the recommendations for 2021/22 round 1 grants made by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel as set out in appendix 2.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	All the applications have been considered by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel, which has made recommendations on which should receive funding. All applications recommended for funding contribute to at least one of the council’s priority outcomes and will enable the applicants to provide activities for the benefit of their communities.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	The option of not recommending funding was considered and rejected as it would not meet the council’s aims of supporting local people to engage in community action.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	

3.	Community Chest is the council's small grants scheme and has been running for more than 35 years. It is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of local community groups. All grant funded projects, events and activities must contribute to at least one of the council's four priority outcomes. Since 2019 a smaller grant has also been available for community celebration events that bring different people together.
4.	Both grant schemes have two rounds per financial year. In 2021/22 the overall budget available is £50,000. The decision maker for both grant schemes is the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture & Heritage, following recommendations by the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel.
5.	Each application is first checked by a technical appraiser to ensure both the project and the applicant meet the Community Chest or Celebrations Grant criteria and minimum standards for grant funding. Further information or clarification is requested where necessary. All applications are then submitted to the cross-party Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel for consideration.
6.	Applications for round one of the 2021/22 Community Chest and Celebrations grant schemes were submitted by 11 June 2021. In total 34 applications were received – 33 for Community Chest and 1 for the Celebrations Grant. The total requested was £67,486. The Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel met on 6 September 2021 to consider all applications.
7.	<p>The Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel has recommended full funding for 18 applications, totalling £37,187. Of the applications that are not being recommended for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 applications are recommended to be declined because of a lack of clarity regarding how the funds would be spent. • 2 applications are recommended to be declined as the organisation does not meet the technical requirements, namely that the organisation is a limited liability company operating for profit. • 2 applications are recommended to be declined for funding as it is unclear whether the project will directly benefit residents of Southampton. • 2 applications are recommended to be declined because supporting documents were not provided. • 2 applications are recommended to be declined because there are multiple similar projects already in operation. • 1 application is recommended to be declined as other funds have been available to the organisation by Southampton City Council since the application was submitted. • 1 application is recommended to be declined because the panel felt it would be an inappropriate use of funds. • 1 application is recommended to be declined because it doesn't meet the technical requirements, namely that the grant would be used for food which is not permissible under the grant guidelines.
8.	A list of all applications with full details of the recommendations and reasons why for each one is attached at Appendix 1.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

REVENUE

9.	A revenue budget of £0.05M was agreed within the budget papers in February 2021. Award of the 18 applications totalling £37,187 will leave £12,813 available for award for 2021/22 financial year.
Property/Other	
10.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
12.	The legal power for the Council to establish, administer and make awards from the Community Chest grant fund is provided by the Localism Act 2011. Subject to certain statutory restrictions. Section 1 gives the Council “power to do anything that individuals may do” which includes making grant funding contributions to worthwhile projects and activities that supports the work of the Council and / or contributes to the wellbeing or benefit of the community or city residents. S.137 provides restrictions on grants to community organisations subject to a maximum amount per head of populace in any one financial year (current £6.15 per head of populace). Any grant funding provided to charity, community organisations or other public bodies will be subject to those restrictions and finance will be required to maintain a auditable trail for annual spending in this regard alongside any other s.137 funding engaged in by the Council.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
13.	In awarding grants under this scheme the Council has had regard to the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010, including the need to assess all applications having regard to the public sector equality duty set out in s.149 of the Act and to ensure that the application process is fair, transparent and designed to eliminate unlawful discrimination against those who have protected characteristics. Grants are also assessed having regard to s.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the extent to which they contribute to the elimination of crime and disorder in the City together with all other relevant legislation.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
14.	The risks of fully funding, part funding or not funding each application were considered as part of the Community Chest Grant Advisory Panel’s discussions. The impact of COVID-19 on the proposed activities was also considered. The recommendations listed in Appendix 1 are considered to be low risk.
15.	All grants will be awarded on condition that the activities/events are carried out in line with Government Guidance about COVID-19, to ensure the safety of everyone involved.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
16.	The recommendations in this paper support the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan 2021 – 2026 , key partnership strategies such as the Safe City Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as Level 1 strategies of the Council
KEY DECISION?	Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

All

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

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| 1. | List of recommendations for Community Chest grant 2021/22 Round 1 |
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Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | Approach to Voluntary Sector Funding, Equality and Safety Cumulative Impact Assessment – updated July 2020 |
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| 2. | Data Protection Impact Assessment – updated July 2020 |
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Equality Impact Assessment

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| 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

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out. | Yes |
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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)
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