

Thursday, 30 June 2022

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Skills, Planning, Economy & Waste, Portfolio Holder for Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy & Community Safety

Proposals For Councillor Project Grants

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

To consider proposals for grant funding for Councillor lead project funds

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approve proposals and process for Councillor Project Grants
2. Approve delegation to the Nominations and Grants Committee to consider and endorse project funding
3. Agree the retained funding of £9,747.53 underspend on Community grants in 2021/22 (PM1865)
4. Approve the retention of any future years underspend on the Community grants budget (GS1002 31551) for allocation to the project grants until 2027 (to not exceed £50,000)

Executive Summary

In 2020 Cabinet agreed that a single pot of funding would be made available to Tamworth Community Groups of £18,590 per year (GS1002 31551).

This funding was the budgeted amounts from the existing Arts, Sports and Voluntary Sector grants. The award of these grants is delegated to the Nominations and Grants Committee.

The grants funding has traditionally been underspent and as such, those underspends have subsequently been returned to the General Fund each year.

The underspend of £9,747.53 was approved for retention by Cabinet during the budget process in order to consider options.

In conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Skills, Planning, Economy & Waste and Portfolio Holder for Voluntary sector, Town Centre, Evening economy & Community Safety it is proposed that this underspend (and that of any future underspends) be designated for grant funding to Councillors under a competitive process for community projects of up to £10,000 per year.

It is proposed that the applications for the Councillor Project funding will be open from September 2022 with a closing date of 31 March 2023. The applications and awards will be made by the Nominations and Grants Committee in June 2023.

Approval is therefore sought to retain the underspend on GS1002 31551 in 2022/23 (if any) and for future years (with a maximum retained fund of £50,000).

Projects must be Councillor lead and applications will be for complete projects with all relevant information, budgets, risk assessments, community impact assessments and sustainability options made available to the Committee.

Funding can be made available to the Voluntary Sector or allocated to the relevant Council department for spend. (Draft criteria attached as Appendix 1)

All projects must have clear evidence of stakeholder involvement and agreement. Further funding could be made available as match funding if necessary for consideration of a wider project that the Councillor(s) may wish to contribute to.

Options Considered

Not to proceed with the grant funding and return underspend to balances.

Resource Implications

Grant applications will be lead and managed by individual Councillors.

Officers will contribute to the proposals during stakeholder engagement only and as part of business planning.

Members of the Partnerships team will prepare and gather information for consideration by the Nominations and Grants committee in accordance with criteria of grant funding and within the current resource allocated.

There is an annual budget for grants to Tamworth Community Groups of £18,590 per year (GS1002 31551).

The underspend of £9,747.53 in 2021/22 was also approved for retention by Cabinet during the budget process in order to consider options.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

No direct implications as a result of this report.

Retained fund is already in place and will be monitored as per budget processes

Risks arising from grant funding applications:

Risk	Mitigations
Grants are not awarded	Budget will be reviewed as per process
Grants process not clearly defined	Process will be subject to application, review and criteria for award to ensure that outcomes are clearly identified
Lack of project review	All grants will be subject to review and reporting in line with transparency data

Equalities Implications

All projects proposed must include a Community Impact Assessment

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

Projects will be considered individually – there are no direct implications as a result of this report

Background Information

Included above.

Report Author

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List of Background Papers**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft Councillor Project Fund criteria.

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