

Report for Nantwich Town Council Policy Committee

Item 6

Date of Meeting: 17th March 2022

Community Grants Review

1. Purpose of Report

To consider proposed amendments to the Community Grants Policy.

2. Background

During the last meeting of the Finance Committee members suggested that the current grants policy could be reviewed with the aim of incorporating additional criteria such as match funding.

3. Considerations

The Community Grant Policy was approved in 2014, so a review of the policy will be beneficial. The current policy (attached) makes available three forms of grants which it is recommended should be retained, these are Capital Grants, awards below £500 and awards above £500. However, it is recommended that the award for small grants and large grants is amended with small grant being determined up to the value of £1000, and large grants being determined as anything over £1000. It is also recommended that applications for large grants above £1000 should still be considered once per year prior to the budget setting process (October) for the following year, with approved grants being awarded in the following year.

Grant applications below £500 are currently accepted throughout the year with a set budget to consider applications so it is difficult to determine how many grants applications may be made. The disadvantage to this is if a worthy application is made at the end of a financial year and there is no funding left within the budget then the Town Council either has to vire funds from an alternative budget or turn down the application. It is recommended that for small grants the awards should be made only three times per year, with the total budget for the year split into three funding rounds.

At present there is no transparent method in place to show how a decision is made by the council on whether an application is successful or not. It is recommended that a scoring criterion is introduced which could include scores associated with match funding or other funding sources, and scores for an application that fits well with the corporate aims of the Town Council (currently Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-23). If the scoring criteria were introduced the council can award grants to those applications which achieve the highest score in the round of funding.

The Town Clerk has drafted a revised grants policy based on the above recommendations, attached for consideration. Should members support the revised policy it is recommended that the policy comes into effect from the new financial year on 1 April 2022.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Full Council approve the updated Community Grants Policy.

5. Financial Implications

See attached reports

6. Equalities Impact

See attached reports

7. Personnel Implications

See attached reports

8. Environmental implications

See attached reports

9. Consultation

See attached reports

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