

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 13 September 2012

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Title: Jubilee Funding for Community/Voluntary groups and Town/Parish Councils

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Howard Rolfe

Key decision: Yes

Summary

1. This report sets out the agreed criteria and recommendations for allocation of funds to Community/Voluntary groups and Town/Parish Councils made by the Jubilee Fund Working Group.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to:
 - 2.1 endorse the recommendations made by the Working Group, attached at Appendix 1.
 - 2.2 to approve that once the further information requested for some of the Town/Parish Councils has been received then the Working Group could determine whether or not to award funding, and
 - 2.3 to consider whether or not the remaining unallocated portion of the Town/Parish Councils' fund should be transferred to the Community/Voluntary groups' fund (as that was oversubscribed) to enable more of those applications to be considered.

Financial Implications

3. The Jubilee Fund is a one-off grant scheme for the financial year 2012/13 and is to be funded from the New Homes Bonus allocation.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Application form for Jubilee Fund for Community/Voluntary Groups and Town/Parish Councils

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation was carried out on the application process. Press releases sent out and information on the Jubilee Fund were put on the Council's website, along with a presentation at the Community Forums. Application forms were sent to District Councillors and Town and Parish Councils for distribution.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	Application open to all Community/Voluntary Groups and Town/Parish Councils. Specific reference was made in the application form to ensure consideration was given to the nine protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 by applicant
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	One off capital grant funding
Ward-specific impacts	Open to all wards
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

6. The Council agreed to allocate a one off sum of £250,000 to the Community/Voluntary Groups and £250,000 to Town and Parish Councils from its New Homes Bonus allocation for 2012/13.
7. It was agreed that the application forms would be assessed by a working group comprising the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Administration, Portfolio Holder for Community Partnerships and Engagement, and a representative from each of the opposition parties along with an independent member from the Local Strategic Partnership, with officer support.
8. The Council received 35 applications from Town/Parish Councils totalling £233,427.07 and 119 applications from Voluntary/Community Groups with a combined total requested £721,589.59.
9. The Working Group met on 2 August and agreed the principles to be used for allocation of the funding. It was recognised some difficult decisions would

have to be made as the fund was three times oversubscribed. Agreed principles were as follows:

- a. application meets the criteria as set out in the form
- b. projects which are considered inappropriate or not in the spirit of the Jubilee Fund will not be supported.
- c. only one bid will be considered from each organisation;
- d. where alternative means of funding could be applied for applications will not be considered
- e. if an applicant requires 100% funding to undertake and complete the project the application will not be considered;
- f. majority of applications to receive 50% of their request, if they can continue with the project by down scaling or applying for alternative funding

10. The Working Group also considered the Town/Parish Councils' applications on an individual basis. It was decided that just because the fund was undersubscribed applications should not automatically receive funding as it was deemed to be important that the projects complied with the spirit of the Jubilee Fund as well as satisfying the agreed criteria. Therefore, further information was requested on some of the projects (which has not been received at the time of writing this report). All applications were considered against the following criteria:

- a. it meets the criteria as set out on the application form;
- b. some projects were considered inappropriate or not in the spirit of the Jubilee Fund.
- c. where alternative means of funding could be applied for applications may not be considered

11. The allocation schedule for both of the funding groups is attached at Appendix 1.

Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Funding may not be spent by end of the financial year	2	Applicants may need to downscale or seek alternative funding for	Fund has been allocated to those groups where they have indicated that the project could go ahead with less

		their project	funding
Those not in receipt of a grant may not be able to carry out their project	3	The project may not go ahead or will have to find funding from elsewhere	The Council will write to each applicant advising that they can receive further funding information from the Council for Voluntary Services, Uttlesford via their grants database

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.