

Committee: Community

Agenda Item

Date: 16 March 2006

5

Title: GRANT MAKING DECISIONS

Author: Alex Stewart (Community & Development
Manager)01799 510555

Item for decision

Summary

This report provides Members with details of the current ways in which grant making decisions are undertaken and suggests a new approach in view of Area Panels now operating throughout the District.

Recommendations

That Members agree to delegate the authorisation of grant provision of the Community Project Grant Scheme to the Area Panels; that the four main centres retain their allocation of £4,000 per centre and the remainder of the budgetary provision for 2006/07 be split equitably amongst the three areas.

That Officers inform Area Panels of any grants that are allocated from the Leisure and Cultural Grant Scheme within the Community Development general report.

Background Papers

- Community Project Grant Scheme Criteria & Application Forms
- Report to Community and Leisure Committee 2 November 2004

Impact

Communication/Consultation	All Parish Councils are informed about the availability of the Community Project Grant Scheme on an annual basis.
Community Safety	Not Applicable
Equalities	This process will enable a localised transparent process of grant allocation
Finance	Grants are only available for capital projects
Human Rights	Not applicable
Legal implications	Not applicable

Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Not applicable

Situation

- 1 The Community Project Grant Scheme is open to any properly constituted voluntary organisation or similar body in the Uttlesford District such as village hall committees, community shops, Town and Parish Councils, Community Associations, play and recreation clubs and groups. Applications from churches/religious groups, schools, sports and art groups are not eligible.
- 2 Grants will be considered towards expenditure incurred in the provision of any of the following:
 - Development of land for recreational purposes, including environmental improvements
 - Buildings/facilities that are available for community use
 - Car parks and access roads to car parks directly associated with a community use building
 - Children's play areas, including equipment and safety surfacing
 - Improvements, refurbishment or extension to any of the facilities outlined above
 - Essential equipment that contributes significantly to the aims and objectives of the project
 - Training or one off staffing costs that contributes significantly to the development of the project or increases benefits to the community (wages and salaries cannot be paid)
 - All applicants must have raised at least 50% matched funding – this can include donations "in kind"
- 3 Currently, organisations are invited to apply for grants in April and May of each year with decisions being made by the Chairman of the Community Committee in conjunction with the Community Development Manager in June of each year. Projects must be completed by the March of the following year. The monies available in the budget for 2006/07 is £24,000.
- 4 In addition to the £24,000, the Community and Leisure Committee agreed at its meeting in November 2004 that the Promotion of Local Centres Grant Scheme be merged with the Community Project Grant Scheme. In so doing, it agreed that £16,000 be ring fenced for sole use by the four main urban centres – £4,000 being allocated for specific projects in Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Thaxted and Great Dunmow. Ergo, the total amount in the budget is £40,000.
- 5 With the advent of Area Panels, Members have expressed a wish for the Area Panels to be involved in the allocation of grants to the local community in their areas. To this end, it is proposed that the allocation of £24,000 be split three ways, i.e. £8,000 per panel and that the four urban centres retain their

allocation of £4,000 each. Members of the Area Panels can then determine the allocation of the grants at the June/July meetings and applicants can be informed thereafter. Officers would continue to support the process through the provision of a written report and associated guidance at the Area Panel meetings.

- 6 With regard to the Leisure and Cultural Grant, it is considered that the amounts of grant monies allocated from this source are too small to warrant the attention of the Area Panels. However, it is considered that it would be useful if Officers could provide details of any grants allocated within specific areas in the general community development report that is prepared for each meeting.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Grant monies allocated not being used within the financial year	Low	Medium	Local Members would be able to encourage and inform organisations etc. that if monies are not spent that they will not be able to carry monies over from one financial year to the next.