

## REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL – 9 OCTOBER 2007

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 7(i)

#### EXTRACT FROM COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - 6 SEPTEMBER 2007

#### C20 CONTRIBUTION FUND SCHEME GRANT AND OTHER GRANT REQUESTS

*Councillor Howell declared a personal interest as a friend of Thaxted Festival and a representative on Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau.*

The Committee was given details of the grants made from the Contribution Fund Scheme, these were given to voluntary organisations in recognition of the services that they offered which the Council might otherwise have to provide. Grants were currently given to the Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau, Bishops Stortford CAB, The Council for Voluntary Services and Uttlesford Community Travel.

These organisations had now asked for a further three years funding and it was noted that these requests exceeded the current budget allocation. The Strategic Partnerships Manager had prepared a table which set out the existing grant allocations, the amount requested and also a column showing the amount of grant if a 3% per annum increase was applied to the existing grant, plus inflation for the next three years. All the organisations would continue to have a service level agreement with the Council.

The Committee was asked to consider a range of options in response to these requests:-

- (a) cease funding the Contribution Fund scheme;
- (b) provide funding solely for the next financial year with a built in review for future funding in September 2008;
- (c) provide funding for the next three years at the same level as is currently being received;
- (d) consider increasing the levels of funding as requested by the organisation; and
- (e) provide funding at the current levels received but with an inflationary uplift over the next three years.

The Committee was also asked to consider requests for funding from the Thaxted Music Festival and the Great Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust.

Members said that it was important that the organisations received funding for three years to enable them to carry out effective planning. It was agreed that all of the organisations carried out excellent work and were essential to Uttlesford. However, Members understood the current financial position and felt that the Council should only commit to providing funding at the current levels received, with an inflationary uplift over the next three years.

RESOLVED that the Committee recommends that

- 1 grant allocations for the Contribution Fund Scheme be considered for the setting of draft budgets for 2008/09 with option (e) being Members preferred option;
- 2 funding for the Thaxted Festival of £3,500 per annum for the next three years be including in the setting of the draft budgets;
- 3 the request by Dunmow Maltings for a £1,000 annual grant contribution for three years towards the day to day running costs be considered in the setting of the draft budgets.