

**VOLUNTARY SUPPORT GRANT COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL CHAMBER -  
COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on  
THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024 at 10.30 am**

Present: Councillor N Hargreaves (Chair)  
Councillors P Lees, N Reeve and M Sutton

Officers in attendance: S Hayden (Community Development Officer and C Gibson  
(Democratic Services Officer).

**VSG1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no apologies for absence.

All Members declared that they had interests in many groups throughout the district.

Councillor Sutton declared that she was a Trustee of Uttlesford Foodbank.

**VSG2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 were agreed as accurate.

**VSG3 VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Each application was considered in turn. The Chair confirmed that £310,000 was available for distribution, the same figure as the previous year.

He said that submissions from 1<sup>st</sup> Chesterford Scout Group, Friends of Clavering Primary School, Henham Village Hall and The Chesterfords Community Pre-School had been considered to be out of scope.

Councillor Sutton said that requests for funding made by Dig-It, Hearing Help Essex Ltd, Support 4 Sight and Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association would all be considered for future funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), although full funding was unlikely.

**RESOLVED to allocate up to £310,000 grant funding, as per the Council's Grants Policy as follows:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Allocated 2024/25</b>
Accuro (Care Service)	£30,000	£10,000
Action for Family Carers	£15,000	£5,000
Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA)	£24,000	£0
CraftAbility - Thaxted Centre for the Disabled	£4,500	£2,500
East Herts Citizens Advice Service	£15,000	£3,000
Home-Start Essex	£13,708	£9,000
Mind in West Essex	£67,000	£16,000
St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust	£5,000	£0
TouchPoint	£25,000	£15,000
Uttlesford Citizen Advice	£200,000	£160,000
Uttlesford Community Action Network	£80,000	£41,500
Uttlesford Community Travel	£40,500	£32,000
Uttlesford Foodbank	£51,000	£16,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£570,708</b>	<b>£310,000</b>

Members made the following additional comments:

- The sum allocated to Accuro (Care Service) was specifically aimed at under 18's.
- The level of funding allocated to Action for Family Carers reflected the fact that this group currently had no base in Dunmow.
- Whilst being great supporters of CARA, Members regretted that this was not currently an area that could be funded from a limited budget but that it was likely that funds would be provided by other agencies.
- Monies allocated to Craftability were in respect of transport costs.
- Monies allocated to East Herts Citizens Advice Service were to support the Level One advice being provided in the overlap with Uttlesford.
- Home-Start Essex monies were to be provided to support the service delivery to eleven families.
- Monies allocated to Mind in West Essex reflected some overlapping and it was recognised that commissioning would also be reviewed in future.
- St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust had not been allocated monies as they were currently well funded.
- Financial support to Touchpoint would be for administration support and reflected the limited budget available. However, the percentage given was reflective of funding to other organisations.
- Monies allocated to Uttlesford Citizen Advice represented over 50% of the total budget.
- Monies allocated to Uttlesford Community Action Network had been considered in light of the possible outcome of the new voluntary offer from Essex CC which would be announced shortly.

- Uttlesford Community Travel's allocation represented evidence that the organisation was managing business appropriately. It was also noted that an additional request for £19,000 for vehicle replacement would receive funding from another grant.
- In respect of funding for Uttlesford Foodbank, monies could not be allocated for food, but support would be offered to fund a paid post. The enormous contribution made by Sophie Durlacher to the Foodbank was recognised by all Members.

The Chair summarised how the £310,000 would be allocated. All groups were thanked for their contributions and for the energy and passion shown by their members.

Sue Hayden (Community Development Officer) was thanked by all Members for her massive input into this exercise.

*Meeting Closed 11.10 am.*