

Report of	Record of	Date
Director (Communities) (Introduced by Executive Member (Early Intervention))	Executive Member Decision	6 September 2022

2022/23 Small Community Grant Funding allocation

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. This report is provided for the Executive Member for Community Services to consider and approve the allocation of Small Community Grant Funding for 2022/23

Recommendations

2. That the recommendations in paragraph 24 for funding to be allocated are approved, subject to agreeing and signing grant agreements with the organisations listed.

Reasons for recommendations

3. To provide Small Community Grant Funding to allow local voluntary, community, and faith sector organisations to deliver services in the borough which contribute towards the Chorley Council priorities.

Other options considered and rejected

4. Not to award these organisations with the grant as requested.

Executive summary

5. Chorley Council recognises the valuable role that voluntary, community and faith groups play in enhancing the life of people in Chorley. The provision of small community funding provides a route to enable these organisations to make this delivery possible, where other funding provision may not be available.

Corporate priorities

6. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	A strong local economy
Clean, safe and healthy communities	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area

Background to the report

7. The main objective of the small community grant fund is “to enable voluntary, community and faith groups to enhance the life of people in Chorley, supporting better outcomes.”
8. An annual budget of £10,000 was allocated to support Small Community Grant Fund, with a further £4,000 allocated to FCC Small Community Environmental Improvements Fund.
9. Over the past several years the model of delivery adopted is to provide a fixed limited timeframe, once per year, in which applications can be submitted and the total budget allocated to successful applicants. The alternative option rejected is to have a rolling open window to receive applications and allocate monies at several points throughout the year.
10. The application process for the allocation of Small Community Funding opened in June for a period of seven weeks, closing on 22nd July 2022.
11. Criteria for the scheme would remain the same as previous years:
 - *The organisation is a voluntary, community or faith sector group operating within the borough of Chorley*
 - *The organisation has a group bank account*
 - *The organisation/project is based on local need*
 - *The organisation has not had a Cllr Community Grant awarded for the same financial year*
12. Following the impact of Covid-19 and insight into the challenges residents are currently facing it was agreed that funding would be targeted to help the voluntary sector provide a much-needed service during the current situation. The fund would welcome applicants who demonstrate how their application for funding will enhance the life of people in Chorley, supporting better outcomes and meet one or more of our key priorities below
 - Provide opportunities that address food poverty
 - Provide opportunities that help encourage residents to be more active
 - Provide employment or education opportunities
 - Provide support to make residents more digitally connected
 - Provide peer support opportunities for those experiencing difficulties
 - Provide opportunities to address social isolation
 - Provide support for those experiencing financial hardship
13. The scheme is managed through the Communities Team who produce recommendations to be considered and decided by the Executive Member (Early Intervention)
14. Thirty-Four (34) small grant applications were received by the closing date on 22nd July
15. An evaluation team assess and evaluate the applications against set scoring criteria and recommendations are made. These applications demonstrate clear alignment with the brief in terms of a well scoped project and defined outcomes in relation to council priorities.

16. All applications to be advised of the decision, setting out agreements to those who have been successful and upon the receiving of those agreements, funding will be awarded.
17. To help ensure confirmation of funding allocated and spent, successful applications will have a set period for the funds to be spent by February 2023. This will enable us to evaluate and ensure expected outcomes from organisations involved were achieved.

FCC Small Community Environmental Improvements Funding

18. This fund follows the same criteria as Small community grants but with an environmental focus
19. FCC Environment, who provide our waste collection service allocate an annual budget to support community organisations to deliver environmental type activity which would include keeping neighbourhoods clean and safe, supporting community clean up events, equipment for local clean ups, recycling & waste reduction initiatives or education campaigns.
20. Nine (9) applications were received by the closing date of 22nd July 2022
21. An evaluation team assess and evaluate the applications and recommendations are made. These applications demonstrate clear alignment with the brief in terms of a well scoped project and defined outcomes in relation to funding priorities
22. All applications to be advised of the decision, setting out agreements to those who have been successful and upon receiving those agreements, funding will be awarded.
23. Like small grants, successful applications will have a set period for the funds to be spent by February 2023. This will enable us to evaluate and ensure expected outcomes from organisations involved were achieved.

Recommendations

24. The recommendations include 36 grants for approval
 - 27 applications to be supported via Small Community grant budget
 - 9 applications to be funded as part of Community Environmental Improvements

To note: a further 4 applicants have been supported via communities' team as the proposed projects aligned with the aims of current delivery

Organisation	Amount to Fund
Chorley Runners	£480.00
1st Clayton Brook Scout Group	£429.00
Friends of Adlington Library	£400.00
Wheulton Ping Pong	£400.00
Shape Lancashire	£350.00
Chorley Ukrainian Community Group	£500.00
Red Admiral Music Academy	£300.00
Shooting stars	£400.00

MS Society - Chorley & Leyland	£500.00
Heartbeat	£310.00
St Laurence's Church	£500.00
SMART Recovery Chorley	£400.00
Genesis Care (North West)	£398.25
Wildwood Days	£360.00
WatchUSgrow	£400.00
Dance Syndrome	£350.00
Griffin Explorer Scout Unit	£300.00
Chorley Guide Dogs	£300.00
West Pennine Villages U3A	£300.00
Coppull in Bloom Friendship Group	£300.00
Run Fit Chorley	£490.00
Hoghton Social & Sports Centre	£360.00
Whittle Wanderers	£300.00
Chorley Theatre	£370.00
The Astley Walled Gardeners	£300.00
Marathon Kids Chorley (Kids Run Free)	£250.00
Springfield Park Leisure Centre	£250.00
Small Community Grant Total Funding	£9,997.25

Organisation	Amount to fund
Chorley Little Theatre	£400
Chorley in Bloom	£650
Eccleston Recreational Parks	£490
Whittle-le-Woods PC	£400
Chorley Buddies	£500
Drakes Hollow Community Improvement Group	£400
Bibby's Farm	£500
Clayton Brook Residents Group	£500
Croston Together	£140
Environmental Improvements Grant Total Funding	£3,980

25. Appropriate monitoring will be undertaken for each of the successful applicants relevant to the level of funding provided.
26. The organisations which were unsuccessful in securing funding will be offered further support to enable them to explore alternative funding sources.
27. If these recommendations are approved, grant agreements will be developed and monitored at conclusion.
28. Grant agreements will include a clause stating the necessity for funding to be used in Chorley and for the benefit of Chorley residents.

Climate change and air quality

29. The work noted in this report has an overall positive impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.

Equality and diversity

30. No implications, the allocation of small grant funding follows an agreed process which allows equal opportunity to apply and each application is assessed using set scoring criteria

Risk

31. Minimal risk is associated with delivery, however if an organisation highlights difficulty to fulfil the proposed project delivery an officer within the Communities Team will work with the relevant group to support

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer


32. The £10,000 allocation has been included in the 2022/23 revenue budget. The £4,000 is made available from FCC Environment as part of the Waste contract agreement which is to be drawn down once recommendations are approved

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

33. The Grant awards are made in accordance with agreed processes.

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Councillor Beverly Murray
Executive Member for Early Intervention

Dated 6 September 2022

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.