

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Policy and Governance) (Introduced by the Executive Leader)	Executive Member Decision	29 March 2019

REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- The Executive Leader requested that a review of the Councillor Community Grants scheme be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That a maximum of £500 be awarded to an organisation per financial year from 1 April 2019.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To ensure that the grants are available for other groups within Chorley.
- To increase opportunities for Member/resident engagement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- To leave the scheme as it is.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

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

BACKGROUND

7. The Councillor Community Grants scheme has been in effect since 2012. Its purpose is to support key Council priorities around devolved budgets and community engagement through facilitating increased opportunities for member/resident engagement.

REVIEW

8. At the request of the Executive Leader officers have reviewed the scheme and found instances where a number of Councillors have sponsored the same organisation.

9. This restricts the funding available for other groups within Chorley and is not in the spirit of the scheme.

10. Last year one organisation received over £500 and another over £700 due to multiple Members supporting the organisation. The proposal would mean that a maximum of £500 be awarded to an organisation per financial year from 1 April 2019.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. There is a risk that Councillor Community Grants become an expectation rather than a one-off bonus.

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

13. This grant is managed within existing budgets

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

14. No comments. This is a discretionary scheme whose terms can be set by the Council the only limitation being that they are reasonable. The report highlights and issue which is being addressed in a reasonable manner to meet the aims of the scheme.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON
DIRECTOR (POLICY AND GOVERNANCE)

Report Author	Ext	Date
Ruth Rimmington	515118	27 March 2019

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.

A. W. Bradley

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Dated 03/04/19

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A. W. Bradley

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