

Proposed changes to the Community Chest scheme criteria

Report number:	CAB/WS/22/024	
Report to and date:	Portfolio holder decision	9 June 2022
Cabinet member:	Councillor Robert Everitt Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities Tel: 01284 769000 Email: robert.everitt@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: **Notice of Intention providing the purpose of the decision and the date in which the decision is expected to be made has been published on 30 May 2022.**

Wards impacted: **All**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities:**

- 1. Approves the changes to the Community Chest grant scheme criteria, as set out in paragraph 2.2 of Report number: CAB/WS/22/024.**
- 2. Requests the changes be made in time for the launch of the 2023 to 2024 Community Chest scheme.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 The Community Chest scheme has been in place since 2017 and in that time funding has been allocated to a large number of organisations which meet the scheme criteria to support the Council's priority of healthy and resilient communities.
- 1.2 As part of the process, each year the Cabinet-appointed West Suffolk Grant Working Party meets to review the funding allocations and reflect on the process, including the monitoring of outcomes. At its meeting in March 2022, the Grant Working Party requested that two changes are made to the scheme which would improve the process and provide more clarity to potential applicants.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 The changes suggested by the Grant Working Party are as follows:
- 2.2 a. **Increase the minimum application amount from £1,000 to £2,500.** This would enable the Community Chest scheme to focus on larger projects and will complement the Councillor Locality Budget where the maximum funding is £2,800. In most cases where smaller amounts are being sought, the Council supports and signposts applicants to other, more suitable funding.
- b. **Amend the scheme criteria to make it clear the funding is only allocated for one year.** The current scheme states that two years' worth of funding can be considered; however, the allocation of two years' funding has been limited in recent years. Removing the possibility of two years' funding will manage the expectation of applicants.
- 2.3 If approved, these changes will come into effect in time for the launch of the 2023 to 2024 scheme. The impact of the changes will be kept under review by officers and the Grant Working Party.

3. Alternative options that have been considered

- 3.1 Not to make the proposed changes detailed in paragraph 2.2 above; however, the opportunity to improve the process and provide more clarity to potential applicants for the 2023 to 2024 Community Chest funding round would be missed. The impact of the proposed changes will be kept under review.