

# Grant Working Party



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Consideration of Community Chest Funding – Transitional Year (2015/2016)</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>GWP/SE/15/003</b> [to be completed by Democratic Services]	
<b>Report to and dates:</b>	<b>Grant Working Party</b>	16 September 2015
	<b>Cabinet</b>	20 October 2015
<b>Portfolio holder:</b>	Cllr Robert Everitt Portfolio Holder for Health and Communities <b>Tel:</b> 07762 341121 <b>Email:</b> robert.everitt@stedsbc.gov.uk	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Davina Howes Head of Families and Communities <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757070 <b>Email:</b> davina.howes@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To discuss applications for Community Chest funding in the transitional year (2015 /2016) and recommend allocations to Cabinet.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2015/2016, as detailed in Report No: GWP/SE/15/003 be considered and recommendations be made to Cabinet accordingly.</b>	

<p><b>Key Decision:</b></p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) A key decision means an executive decision which, pending any further guidance from the Secretary of State, is likely to:</p> <p>(ii) result in any new expenditure, income or savings of more than £50,000 in relation to the Council's revenue budget or capital programme;</p> <p>(b) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive procedure rules set out in Part 4 of this [the] Constitution.</p>
<p><i>The key decision made as a result of this report will be published within <b>48 hours</b> and cannot be actioned until <b>seven working days</b> have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i></p>	
<p><b>Consultation:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Grant Working Party has had prior sight of the applications via email.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Alternative option(s):</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council could choose not to provide any grant funding, however it is recognised that some support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector is required. The Community Chest also enables the council to commission services to support the delivery of its priorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Implications:</b></p>	
<p>Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for grants are contained within existing budgets. This report proposes that any underspends in the Community Chest be retained within the budget to be used to commission third sector support for specific community issues.</li> </ul>
<p>Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<p>Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<p>Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires that the previous Grant Policy be revoked.</li> </ul>

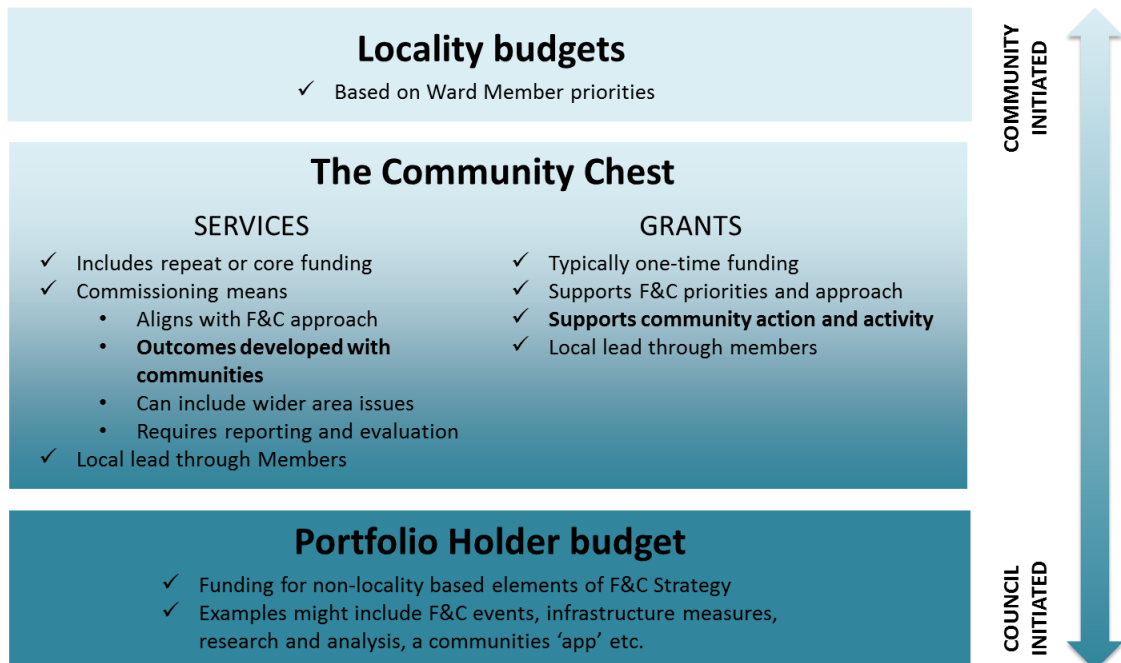
<p>Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details</p>		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council's approach to grants has been the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment and no negative consequences have been identified.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b></p>		<p><i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i></p>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Organisations are not aware of our approach to grants	Medium	Implement a wide ranging communications plan	Low
Requests for funding exceed the amount of money available	Medium	Eligibility criteria and an evaluation scoring matrix to be used to identify best fit and value for money	Low
Organisations do not have the capacity to respond to the council's approach to commissioning	Medium	Support provided to organisations and a phased approach to be taken to enable organisations to become familiar with the new approach	Low
<p><b>Ward(s) affected:</b></p>		<p>All Ward/s</p>	
<p><b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i></p>		<p><a href="#">Cabinet Report No: CAB/SE/15/028</a></p>	
<p><b>Documents attached:</b></p>		<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – HomeStart Application  <b>Appendix 2</b> – SARS Application  <b>Appendix 3</b> – Unit Twenty Three Application  <b>Appendix 4</b> – Catch 22, Suffolk Positive Futures  <b>Appendix 5</b> – Suffolk West CAB  <b>Appendix 6</b> – Scoring Matrix  <b>Appendix 7</b> – Scoring Sheet</p>	

# 1. New approach to grant funding arrangements – Background

- 1.1 A key part of delivering West Suffolk’s second Strategic Plan priority (for 2014-16) of “*resilient families and communities that are healthy and active*” is to support a “*thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable*”. This support takes many forms across the various areas of the council’s business. An important element is the financial support that the council gives to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) in the form of grant funding.
- 1.2 At the meeting of Cabinet on 24 March 2015, Members approved the revised approach to grant funding from 2015 / 2016, with the establishment of a Community Chest (Report no: CAB/SE/15/028 refers).
- 1.3 The following diagram illustrates how grant funding now works. The funds may be given as grants (one-off) or commissioned against agreed outcomes. The intention is to ensure that the (i) principle of grass roots and, community led action is supported and encouraged where possible; and (ii) the councillor’s role as a community leader is emphasised, which can only strengthen democratic engagement within the community.

It represents a simplified mix of funding types, with differing degrees of devolution to local communities.

## Families and Communities Funding Approach



1.4 In summary the three levels work as follows:

- (i) **Locality budgets:** Specific local priorities can be supported, especially where led by the Ward Councillor in their capacity as a community leader. These are awarded against set criteria. They are typically one-off grants.
- (ii) **Community Chest:** Other community and Councillor led initiatives that exceed Locality Budgets can be bid for from a Community Chest. These will be subject to criteria and process and signed off by the Portfolio Holder in conjunction with staff up to the value of the delegation powers, thereafter through the cabinet process. Requests over the Portfolio Holder delegation responsibility will also be considered by the Grant Working Party. Request for funding may be one-off grants, or revenue funds for services.
- (iii) **Portfolio Holder budget:** Offers a mechanism for addressing priorities that emerge, or to address issues that impact on a wider geographical scale than can be identified by a single community or Councillor. It also offers a potentially quicker decision which may benefit the applicant.

1.5 The funding for the existing Service Level Agreements (SLA) totalling £199,770 has been moved into the Community Chest. However, it is important to note that previous agreements have been honoured, all of which finish at the end of March 2016. As such the remaining Community Chest funds available for 2015/2016 is £56,850.

## **2. 2015/2016 Allocations**

2.1 Applications received for 2015/2016 are summarised below with the full applications attached as appendices to this report with personal or sensitive information retracted.

**Home-Start** are seeking £5,000 towards the recruitment and retention of volunteers as part of a £145,400 project providing one to one support families. Home-Start work to strengthen families by helping parents to help themselves: to become happier, more confident parents, fully engaged with their children. This in turn improves the health and welfare of the children.

**Suffolk Accidents and Rescue Service (SARS)** are requesting £1,500 towards their running costs, specifically equipment and administrative costs for 2 solo responders in St Edmundsbury. SARS proved a local specialist critical care response service who aim to treat patients who need urgent and specialist medical attention in the prehospital environment.

**Unit Twenty Three** are applying for £5,000 to support a tour of a powerful play developed by Young Carers and professional artists. The project will then train Young Carers to facilitate post-show TalkOut workshops where young caring can be explored. Identified Young Carers will educate communities and develop skills, and unidentified Young Carers will be encouraged and enabled to access support.

**Catch 22, Suffolk Positives Futures** are asking for £8,902.50 to support the delivery of a programme of sports sessions in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. The sessions are designed to be an early intervention project, diverting young people into a worthwhile and constructive activity and not allowing boredom to set in and perhaps lead on into less desirable activities.

**Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau** are seeking £24,326 to deliver an Access Strategy which will improve access to free advice for local residents. This will include an improved telephone advice service as well as directing clients to self help services to ensure that volunteers time is focused on always 'moving the client forward' in their problem during their visit.

- 2.2 The closing date for applications for financial year 2016/2017 is 30 September 2015 and will be reported to the Grant Working Party meeting on 16 November 2015 for consideration. The Community Chest budget for 2016/2017 is £281,483.
- 2.3 The Working Party will be aware that the Community Chest is a new approach to community funding and as such we would welcome feedback on the process and ways it could be improved. It may be difficult to incorporate any changes into the 2016/2017 round of funding as applications are currently open but amendments can be considered for future rounds.