

Item 6 - Community Grant Scheme 2022/23

The attached report was considered by the People & Places Advisory Committee on 1 March 2022. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Community Grant Scheme 2022/23 (1 March 2022, Minute 39)

The Community Projects and Funding Officer and the Health and Communities Manager presented the report which set out information about the Community Grant Scheme and summarised applications received by the Council from voluntary organisations for funding during 2022/23.

The Council's Community Grant Scheme supported local charities and voluntary sector organisations that, through their work, contributed to the priorities set out in the Community Plan.

The grant guidelines were reviewed during 2013/14 and revised guidelines were agreed by Cabinet on 12 September 2013.

In 2021/22, the grants awarded through the Community Grant Scheme enabled voluntary organisations to support 80,377 volunteer hours in the Sevenoaks District, which represented an economic benefit of £1.53 million.

Members discussed the report and it was suggested that a quicker turnaround for the Grant Scheme should be looked into.

It was noted that the grant scheme guidelines had not been reviewed recently and that a review of these documents and the whole current process would be provided at a future meeting of the Committee. This review would not affect current grants.

Applicants were updated as to the availability of alternative grants and so were not merely reliant on the Council's Community Grant Scheme.

Members were advised that the grants had not decreased from last year.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the Grants, as set out in Appendix C of the report be approved, subject to the conditions as set out in paragraph 12 of the report below:

- That performance indicators as set out in the application forms are adhered to and monitored;

- That appropriate Safeguarding policies and arrangements are in place, where necessary;
- That appropriate recognition of this Council's funding contribution is made in all their publicity; and
- Where services are provided over a wider area than the District boundaries, organisations will be required to hold grant aid from this Council in a restricted fund for the benefit of Sevenoaks District residents;
- That organisations funded either have or are working towards any quality accreditation.