

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 November 2016
Subject:	Community Grants Criteria
Report of:	Head of Development Services, Julie Wood
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive, Mike Dawson
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Community
Number of Appendices:	One – Current Community Grants Information Guide

Executive Summary:

In September 2015 the Council revised the criteria for the Community Grants Scheme as part of a review of community grants. At this time the criteria was based on the priorities identified within the 2012-2016 Council Plan.

Following the implementation of the new Council Plan 2016-2020, there is opportunity to revise the criteria on which decisions for community grants are made.

This report outlines the recommended revised criteria for the community grants for implementation from April 2017.

Recommendation:

To approve the new community grants criteria for implementation from April 2017.

Reasons for Recommendation:

- Due to the priorities within the new Council Plan 2016-2020.
- To meet the community's needs within the Borough.

Resource Implications:

None associated directly with this report. The Council makes £150,000 available annually from New Homes Bonus to support the community grants scheme.

Legal Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management Implications:

None associated directly with this report.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Feedback on community funding is provided within the Council's performance tracker. Successful applicants are also required to provide feedback to the Council.

Environmental Implications:

None associated directly with this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1** In 2009 the Executive Committee resolved to form a Working Group to review community grant funding requests. Following this, in September 2015, the Executive Committee decided to revise the grants criteria by which decisions were made, as a result of new financing and to resolve issues encountered within the scheme at that point.
- 1.2** At that time the priorities within the Council Plan 2012-2016 were used as the basis for the decision making criteria. This criteria is outlined within the current Community Grants Information Guide within Appendix One. The Council Plan outlined the following priorities and objectives;
- Use resources effectively and efficiently.
 - Promote economic development.
 - Improve recycling and care for the environment.
 - Provide customer focused community support.
 - Develop housing relevant to local needs.
- 1.3** Since September 2015, the Working Group has approved grants totalling £279,069. There is an annual budget of £130,000. Community groups can apply for capital grants up to a maximum of £30,000 and revenue grants of a maximum of £3,000. Grants have been awarded for a number of different projects, including improvements to community halls, sports facilities and play facilities. Revenue grants have been awarded for items such as community events, equipment and training.
- 1.3** In July 2015 the Council appointed a Community Funding Officer to manage the Community Grants Scheme, as well as assisting community groups in securing funding from other funding bodies. Initially appointed on a two year basis, this post has been extended for a further two years until July 2019.
- 1.4** In 2016 the Council adopted a new Council Plan, which outlined new priorities. Currently, and until now all the community grants have been awarded based on the criteria that reflected the 2012-2016 Council Plan.

2.0 REVISED COMMUNITY GRANTS CRITERIA

2.1 Following the adoption of the new Council Plan for 2016-2020, the Working Group tasked officers with developing revised criteria, particularly as there was little reference to community support within the new plan. This revised criteria has been discussed with the Working Group and is outlined below, incorporating the amendments from the Group. This criteria includes geographical coverage, evidence of need, match funding and impact on the community. The proposed criteria will be used against both capital and revenue applications. Capital applications will continue to be scored on a percentage basis against the amount applied for. Revenue applications will continue to be awarded on a yes/no basis.

2.2 The proposal is to award grants on the following criteria:

1. Where the project covers (up to 20% of the final score – capital projects only).
 - Borough-wide.
 - Multi-Parish.
 - Parish/Local Facility.
2. Evidence of a clear need for the project e.g. consultation and relevant local statistics (up to 20% of the final score – capital projects only).
3. Whether the application has secured or applied for funding, including to the local Parish/Town Council (up to 30% of the final score – capital projects only) (revenue projects need to have applied for funding from alternative sources).
4. How will the grant positively influence the community incorporating (up to 30% of the final score – capital projects only) (revenue projects need to meet one of the below):
 - A. Bringing communities together and becoming more socially sustainable.
 - B. Encouraging communities to be healthier and more active.
 - C. Encouraging learning of new skills that will be used for community benefit.
 - D. Demonstrating the financial sustainability of the group and project.
 - E. Encouraging volunteering in the community.
 - F. Improving and maintaining the community's environment.

The maximum amounts awarded (£30,000 for capital and £3,000) are proposed to remain the same. All other criteria such as minimum lease periods, payment timescales and application periods are also recommended to stay the same.

2.3 In order to allow a transition between the existing criteria and new criteria, it is proposed that applications under the existing criteria are honoured until March 2017. Therefore, the Committee is requested to adopt the new criteria for awarding grants from April 2017. If approved, a new Community Grants Information Guide will be produced.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 No other options at this stage.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 There has been a consultation with the Community Grants Working Group on the proposed criteria.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 Council Plan 2016-2020.
Development Services Service Delivery Plan.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 None.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 The community grants provide support to community groups to enable positive outcomes for the community, which includes social, community safety and cultural.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 None.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 Community Grants Review – Executive Committee September 2015.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: One – Current Community Grants Information Guide