

Appendix A: Consideration of comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Comment from Committee	Reasons from the Committee	Executive Member/Officer Comment	Recommended Action
<p>Section 2 of the proposed Grants Policy 2023/24 implies that an individual or informal group (with no legal status) can apply for a community grant, however, section 6 states that only constituted voluntary organisations may apply. This is contradictory.</p>	<p>Members believe that individuals and informal group (with on legal status) should be eligible for a community grant and so this inconsistency remedied.</p>	<p>The Executive Member for Communities notes the unintended apparent exclusion of individuals/informal groups from being eligible to apply and agrees that they should eligible.</p>	<p>Following the recommendation from members, Section 2 detailing the eligibility criteria to be amended from “be a constituted voluntary organisation, not-for-profit organisation or...” to “be (a) a constituted voluntary organisation, (b) not-for-profit organisation, (c) an individual or informal group (with no legal status) with an agreed councillor mentor or (d)...”</p>
<p>Members noted that it is proposed to cease making small grants of up to £300.</p>	<p>Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented that they believed there is still an ongoing</p>	<p>Following the Overview and S Scrutiny Committee meeting, officers reviewed the fourteen small grants awarded in 2022/23. Of these, 12 were awarded £300, with the remaining two awarded slightly</p>	<p>Following the proposal from Members, amend text in section 1 of the Grants policy 2023/24 to read: “In 2023/24, individual community grants of between £300 and</p>

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	need for small grants of up to £300.	less – £285 and £290. While arguably <i>very</i> small grants are unlikely to enable a legacy beyond the funding, it appears that grants of £300 have led to worthwhile projects previously. Thus, the Executive Members recognises the benefit of reducing the lower grant threshold from £500 to £300.	£3,000” will be made”.
That projects focusing on mental health should extend beyond only young people and families as included in the priority list in Table 1 of the draft Community Grants Policy.	Members felt that the mental health projects could legitimately focus on people of all ages.	The wording of the proposed priority presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that project could “enable young people and families to take care of their mental health, achieve a healthy weight and stay active” was designed in recognition that the issues of mental health and wellbeing among young people	To respond to members concerns, Section 3 of the Community Grants Policy 2023/24 which currently includes the priority for applications that “encourage communities to identify a local health and wellbeing issue and address it together” will be amended to “encourage communities to identify a local physical and/or mental health and

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		<p>and families can sometime be overlooked, especially in relation to emerging from the pandemic. There was no intention of excluding applications focused on older people’s mental wellbeing. The Executive Member recognises, however, that the current wording could be read in this way.</p>	<p>wellbeing issue and address it together.”</p> <p>It is felt this clearly demonstrates the council’s openness to application seeking to address mental health issues across the age range.</p>
<p>Members commented that the list of priorities could include a greater focus employability and return to work issues.</p> <p>Section 3 of the Grants Policy 2023/24 detailing the Grants Priorities has a priority that</p>	<p>Members felt inclusion of such a priority was important given the current cost of living crisis.</p>	<p>Addressing employability and return to work issues is primarily covered by the council’s economic development funding programmes which are available to businesses, individuals and community sector partners. The Executive Member recognises, however,</p>	<p>Section 3 of the Community Grants Policy 2023/24 which currently includes the priority for applications that “support residents experiencing loneliness, isolation or domestic abuse or who find it difficult to interact with the community”</p> <p>to be amended to “support residents experiencing loneliness,</p>

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states "support residents experiencing loneliness, isolation or domestic abuse or who find it difficult to interact with the community"		that applications which include an element of enhancing employability would merit consideration for a community grant.	isolation, domestic abuse, cost-of-living challenges, or those who find it difficult to interact with the community."
Applications from town and parish council should be ineligible because these council can raise their own resources from their precept-raising power and/or their reserves.	Town and parish councils have greater ability than many voluntary and community groups to raise money and/or use reserves and so including them in the eligible applicants could adversely affect the resources available to the voluntary and community sector.	Town and parish councils have been eligible to bid for a community grant from the council for many years, however, records show that relatively few awards are made to them. Of note, in the two years to 2022/23, only four applications were received from a town or parish council with just one of these being successful. The Executive Member recognises that many of the town and parish council will be	The 'Match funding' assessment criterion be amended for application from town or parish councils such that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 points awarded to an application from a town or parish council providing match funding in cash (not in-kind support) of up to the same amount being applied for from the council • 1 point awarded to an application from a town or parish council providing match funding of an amount greater than that being applied for

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		<p>able to fund their own projects, however, she is of the view that the council's community grants programme provides an appropriate potential funding source for the smaller councils. It is worth noting that the assessment criteria under section 4 of the proposed Community Grants Policy have been designed in such a way as to award more points to the smaller voluntary or community groups over town and parish councils. As discussed above, similar criteria used previously have worked to promote voluntary and community groups' applications over those of town and parish councils.</p>	<p>from the council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 and 3 points will not be available to town or parish council applications

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		There is a case for reflecting in the assessment criteria the legitimate expectation that town and parish councils can provide more match funding than other bodies.	