

Report of the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood and Customer Services to the meeting of Bradford East Area Committee on Thursday 30 March 2017

AH

Subject:

Community Chest Budget allocation 2016 / 2017 and Community Chest Grants funding 2017 / 2018

Summary statement:

This report outlines the allocation of the Community Chest Budget for the financial year 2016/2017 and asks Members to consider the make-up of the Grants Advisory Group in the Bradford East Area for 2017/2018.

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the allocation of the Community Chest Budget for the financial year 2016/2017 and asks Members to consider the make-up of the Grants Advisory Group in the Bradford East Area for 2017/2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Community Chest Budget assists and enables a wide range of community initiatives to be developed to benefit communities in the Bradford East Area.
- 2.2 The Community Chest Budget allocated to the Bradford East Area Coordinator's Office for 2016 / 2017 was £11,500.
- 2.3 Applications that meet the published criteria are considered from community groups and organisations and sometimes from individuals living and benefiting the Bradford East Area.
- 2.4 The Area Co-ordinator, or designated officer, is responsible for making the decisions on the Community Chest applications received. These decisions are made in consultation with the Grants Advisory Group whose membership is made up of three Elected Members, reflecting the political make up of the Bradford East Area Committee. In previous years the Chair and Deputy Chair and the Opposition Spokesperson have made up the Grants Advisory Group.
- 2.5 Interest in and the demand on the Community Chest Fund continues to be extremely high. Over the years, the Community Chest Fund has been well used by local community and voluntary organisations and individuals. Numerous activities and events have been supported which otherwise may have been difficult to run.

3. Other considerations

- 3.1 During the financial year 2016/2017, 54 applications for Community Chest Grants were received by the Grants Advisory Group, a breakdown of which is shown in appendix A.
- 3.2 In reviewing the Community Chest grant allocation for 2016 / 2017, it is important to note the high demand on the fund available to Bradford East Area Co-ordinator's Office. Owing to the high demand on the limited Community Chest fund it has been a practice of the Bradford East Area Co-ordinator, or designated officer, in consultation with the Grants Advisory Group, to make a contribution towards the total cost of the activity and to only occasionally approve the full amount requested.

4. Options

- 4.1 That Members note the report.

5. Financial and resource appraisal

5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 In 2016/2017 the Community Chest funding allocated was £11,500 plus an additional £350 that was returned as not spent from the previous year. Therefore, a total of £11,850 Community Chest funding was available.

5.1.2 The 2017 / 2018 Community Chest Fund is £11,500. The Fund is frequently match funded by contributions from other Council Departments, external funders and fundraising by the local community groups applying.

5.2 **Staffing**

5.2.1 Officer support is provided from the Area Co-ordinator's Office from within existing resources.

6. **Legal appraisal**

6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. **Other implications**

7.1 **Equal Rights**

7.1.1 Community Chest Grants enable local organisations to provide activities and services in response to identified local needs. Support for a range of disadvantaged groups figure in the award of the grant e.g. women, young people, older people, minority ethnic communities and those with disabilities or special needs.

7.2 **Sustainability implications**

7.2.1 Local community groups and individuals are encouraged to fundraise and apply for funding from other sources, including charitable organisations. This experience builds up confidence and empowers local residents.

7.3 **Community safety implications**

7.3.1 There are no Community Safety implications arising from this report.

7.4 **Human Rights Act**

7.4.1 There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

7.5 **Trade Union**

7.5.1 There are no Trade Union Implications arising from this report.

8. **Not for publication documents**

8.1 There is no restriction on the publication of this report.

9. **Recommendations**

9.1 That the allocation of Community Chest Grants to local groups in the Bradford East Constituency for the financial year 2016/2017 be noted.

9.2 That a 2017/2018 Grants Advisory Group made up of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesperson be established.

9.3 That the Area Coordinator be asked to submit a report on the allocation of Community Chest Budget to local groups in Bradford East at the end of financial year 2017/2018.

10. **Appendices**

10.1 Appendix A: Breakdown of Community Chest applications in 2016/2017.

11. Background documents

11.1 None.