
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

23 July 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of People

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Community Grant Fund – Round 1 2015/16

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Community Grant Fund is managed by the City Council's Community Development Service within the People Directorate. This report covers Round 1 of 2015/16 Grant Fund award process and provides information and recommendations on applications received.

The application process followed is the same as that used for 2014/15. Groups were invited to apply for a maximum grant of £5000, with a restriction of one award per round. Round 1 opened on 1 April 2015 and closed at 4.00pm on 31 May 2015.

The Community Grant is a valuable resource for local community and voluntary sector groups and supports the Council's Asset Based Working Strategy "Active Citizens, Strong Communities". The Strategy makes a series of commitments to support the growth of community led activities and support and the Community Grant Fund is a valuable means of providing important one-off funding to a number of community organisations to enable their work to continue.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is requested to

1. Approve the award of grants as identified in section 2.3 Table One.

List of Appendices included:

1. Grant Criteria Document

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Community Grant Fund – Round One Award Decisions

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Round 1 of the Council's Community Grant Fund 2015/16 was opened on 1 April 2015.
- 1.2 Round 1 was promoted via the Council's funding helpdesk, the Community Development Service, flyers, noticeboards, by direct emails to all contacts and through Social Media including Twitter and the Council's website. The closing date for applications through Round 1 was 31 May 2015.
- 1.3 As well as being accessible on the Council website and the Coventry Partnership website, hard copy applications were made available at the Council House reception to ensure that they were available to anyone who may not have access to a computer.
- 1.4 An officer evaluation panel was established to scrutinise Community Grant applications for completeness and compliance with application criteria and to inform recommendations for Grant award to Cabinet Member.
- 1.5 The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities will make all final decisions on Grant award.
- 1.6 During Round 1 of the Community Grant application process, 42 applications were received with £131,846.56 worth of funding requests.
- 1.7 A total of £32,214.00 (from approved requests for funding of £54,762.38) is recommended for Community Grant award to 22 community groups and organisations. The maximum amount available for allocation through Round 1 is £50,000.
- 1.8 A further 20 applications to the value of £77,084.18 are not recommended for Community Grant award. Where approval is not recommended, this is for a number of reasons including:
 - application criteria not being met;
 - applications failing to evidence how they will meet the objectives of the scheme;
 - lack of evidence of how ongoing sustainability can be achieved;
 - applications being incomplete or vague in content;
 - monitoring criteria not met for previous Grant awards awarded to the organisation/group in question;
 - alternative potential funding streams have been identified;
 - a lack of evidence that the project supports community cohesion.
- 1.9 All applicants that are not fully funded as a result of the Grant award process will be offered support from a member of the Community Development Service to further explore the viability of their project proposals and/or to seek other potential funding streams to enable them to be developed.
- 1.10 Any funds not allocated will be available for allocation in Round Two 2015/16.
- 1.11 The Community Grant aims to strengthen the voluntary and community sector through enabling local projects and events to be delivered; to enhance asset based

provision; and to build resilience within communities. The Community Grant scheme continues to provide important funds to support small organisations and groups in adding value to their communities.

1.12 Specific examples of the benefits realised as a result of the grant awarded in 2014/15 are as follows:

- Singer Residents Association, Hillfields, St Michael's Ward, received £3,300 to run 'Hillfields by the Sea'. The residents association working with a variety of local agencies and the Community Development team took ten coaches with 348 people to Weston Super Mare in October after receiving part of the amount requested.

The group wanted to give an opportunity for people of Hillfields to have a trip to the Seaside, which they would otherwise not be able to afford. Those who participated included people on low incomes, people from BAME communities, refugees, new and migrant communities, isolated older people and people with disabilities.

- Gosford Community Garden, Lower Stoke received £3,650 towards creating a garden space that is accessible to people with disabilities and offers a friendly meeting place for the local community.
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, received £2,050 to support work with young vulnerable adults in and around the Hillfields area, providing support in the Hillfields Youth centre for 1:1 sessions.
- City Mission, Wood End received £3,500 towards providing a hot meal during school holidays to struggling families as well as games and educational activities.

1.13 All applicants are required to demonstrate how they will meet at least one of the objectives outlined in the table below through delivery of their project. This ensures alignment of outcomes with corporate objectives.

No	Objectives
1	Deliver projects that will make Coventry an attractive, cleaner and greener city
2	Support communities to become safer by developing networks and/or partnerships of communication, trust and co-operation
3	To improve health and wellbeing in the community
4	To reduce health inequalities in the community and across the city
5	To protect and support the most vulnerable in the local community
6	To develop active citizens in strong actively engaged and sustainable communities

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Table One below describes those Grant applications received that have been recommended for approval as well as the total amount recommended for approval, in part or in full.

2.2 Table Two describes those Grant applications that have been received but are not recommended for approval. Feedback will be provided to these organisations by the Community Development Service.

2.3 Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to approve the award of Grant funding described in Table One, all of which meet the approved Grant Application criteria (see Appendix 1) and at least one of the objectives noted at section 1.12.

Table One: Applications recommended for award

Ward	Project Name	Brief description of project	Amount requested	Amount recommended
City wide	#4Jazz Coventry Community Street Festival	Inspired by exciting, inclusive and diverse carnival and street theatre, live music will be heard in the city streets, museum spaces, 'warehouse' cafes, reaching more than 20,000 people. Contribution to event awarded to work with two local groups, volunteer equipment and expenses, plus publicity material	£2000	£1000
Binley & Willenhall/Hillfields	Valuing Volunteers	Four coaches for a day trip, to say thank you to their volunteers, recognising the value they are to the community and helping to raise their self- esteem.	£1100	£1100
Cheylesmore	Play Area Renovation and Development	Contribution to develop outdoor play area of preschool and holiday club.	£1649.80	£500
Henley	Community firework event; Moat House Trust	Wood End has been identified as an arson hotspot. Previous bonfire party event has proved very successful in reducing arson in the area.	£1500	£1250
Henley	Community Fete and Family Fun Day	The only community event in Walsgrave where people from a diverse community come together. This event is an opportunity to recruit new members for the residents association.	£1227	£750
Longford	Angling for success	Angling improves young people's confidence, they are encouraged to work in teams. Focus on improving communication and respecting the wildlife and natural environment.	£3800	£2400

Ward	Project Name	Brief description of project	Amount requested	Amount recommended
Lower Stoke	Restoration of the Joseph Levi Clock	The Clock is in urgent need of restoration. The Clock represents an important bit of history and the heritage of this part of Coventry and of the city as a whole.	£5000	£5000
Lower Stoke	Stoke Aldermoor War Memorial	Identified that restoring the war memorial is important to Stoke Aldermoor residents. Both to celebrate the sacrifice made by a generation and to give a focal point to the community.	£1571	£750
Sherbourne	Building a dividing wall in order to enable wider access to the community kitchenette	To improve use of the space which is at the moment restricting the amount of groups who can use it at any one time. Award covers Studded wall, fire door and window	£3500	£1190
Sherbourne	SNOWBIES	To start up a new group. SNOWBIES will target grandparents who care for young children, encourage networking and reduce risk of isolation.	£1923.60	£855
Sherbourne/ Woodlands	Grow and Live	Outreach work in Tile Hill, Spon End, Radford and Hillfields. To encourage people to grow their own. 40 sessions hope to attract 230 people and 160 people will benefit from the fresh produce at harvest times.	£4585	£1395
Sherbourne	Furniture Restoration Outreach	Offering Coventry citizens the opportunity to attend furniture restoration and upcycling workshops. Free workshops that will teach Coventry citizens how to renovate or upcycle such furniture.	£2695	£2695
St Michaels	Flying Start	Offering small jobs service to approximately 50 older, vulnerable or less mobile customers from areas of higher deprivation - CV1 - CV2 (e.g. Wood End, Willenhall, Hillfields).	£5000	£1750

Ward	Project Name	Brief description of project	Amount requested	Amount recommended
St Michaels	Property Development	Buildings survey report and legal advice to support potential asset transfer.	£2500	£1500
St Michaels	Breathe Easy	Supports people suffering from lung conditions and their family and friends. Aim is to reduce isolation, improve confidence and knowledge. Cost of running some group activities	£900	£405
St Michaels	Design and Printing of postcards & Brochures	To design and print post cards and small guide book to promote the Charterhouse.	£624	£624
St Michaels	Message in a Bottle	To promote community cohesion by bringing together different communities in the city.	£825	£350
St Michaels	Yoga, meditation and carers breaks and cultural celebration sessions for Milan family carers	To support and improve the lives of family carers. Their research shows a real need for carers to have somewhere/something for themselves. Supporting yoga sessions.	£5000	£500
St Michaels	East Street pocket park	The overall project will be providing community engagement/improvement activities around East Street Pocket Park, Vauxhall Street, Hillfields, Coventry.	£530	£530
Whoberley	Community Garden Seating and Sensory	Memory/sensory seating area within the garden area. Additional work is for adults with learning disabilities to get involved in gardening, approximately 150 will benefit from the project.	£4951.98	£4250
Woodlands	Knitting for charity	To support 25+ senior citizens, many of whom live alone, to continue meeting. The group currently donate blankets, hats, and cardigans to a variety of charities.	£1380	£920
Wyken	Remembrance Garden and Training area	To repair and secure a monument which has been vandalised. To sustain a garden which is used by cadets and visitors.	£2500	£2500
TOTAL			£54,762.38	£32,214.00

Table Two : Applications not recommended for award

Ward	Project name	Brief description	Amount requested
City wide	Eat Healthy and stay alive	To create awareness about the importance of healthy eating among the young and old within black minority ethnic communities.	£5000
City wide – Radford, St Michaels and Willenhall	A Dancing City	This application is to enhance the resilience of the dance community in Coventry. It will bring together dance artists, organisations and teachers of dance in educational settings to further the quality and provision for dance participation in the city.	£4995
Bablake	Hollyfast Lane safety scheme	There is currently a serious problem with traffic in Hollyfast Lane and surrounding areas, causing risk and actual damage to vulnerable road users, including those on bikes and horses.	£3260
Binley & Willenhall	Community crafting in Willenhall	To support the development of a larger, friendly craft group, for all members of the community, to craft and chat, make friends, increase self confidence and reduce isolation	£500
Cheylesmore	Development of Age Friendly self-help group for the elderly/ isolated in Cheylesmore and district	To reduce isolation amongst people in Cheylesmore.	£4966
Earlsdon	Health Activities for Blind and partially sighted	To support with various activities which people who are blind/partially sighted are otherwise not able to do or have had to stop due to their sight impairment.	£4190
Foleshill	Alliance Somali community organisation	To organise and deliver events and seminars to young vulnerable people, rent and electric for six months and to purchase second-hand IT equipment	£5000

Ward	Project name	Brief description	Amount requested
Foleshill	Geet Sangeet Group	To support people with dementia in the Foleshill area. To buy musical instruments and fund two day trips	£4450
Foleshill	Neighbourhood Plan and Community Share Offer	Professional fee costs to prepare and issue a community share offer.	£2500
Foleshill	Healthy lifestyle development	Provide local access to physical activity (boxing) and encourage a healthy life style.	£5000
Lower Stoke/Sherbourne	CNC Router/Stoke Aldermoor War Memorial	To design a replacement Memorial that will be carved from oak and brass in accordance with the original memorial.	£4500
Lower Stoke	Gosford Community Garden	For materials including recycled items and to get volunteers and contractors to work together.	£3910
Radford	Supporting Accessible Volunteering	To promote the voluntary sector for the public benefit, in particular by promoting, encouraging and supporting volunteering and community involvement by individuals.	£4000
Sherbourne	Women's only archery	To pay for room hire and equipment.	£5112.10
Sherbourne	Art for Dementia	To deliver 16 sessions, each lasting two hours. Aim is to offer a friendly and enjoyable environment.	£2000
Sherbourne	Summertime	Provide foster carers with activities for looked after children during the summer and to engage with carers to recruit more foster carers.	£5320.18
St Michaels	Embrace projects	A community project for ex-offenders, giving them the chance to socialise as a group, and to create positive art.	£4000
St Michaels	Telling Tales	Imagination Reading Cafes to create a bridge between cultures. For room hire, resources, story tellers and musicians.	£2180.90

Ward	Project name	Brief description	Amount requested
St Michaels	Multi culture day event	A celebration of culture diversity in Coventry. The festival is about sharing and experiencing different food, culture and art.	£1200
Westwood	Installation of a 'gap funded' FTTC cabinet	To improve Broadband accessibility.	£5000
TOTAL			£77,084.18

3. Results of consultation undertaken:

- 3.1 No specific formal consultation has been undertaken for Round 1 of the 2015/16 Community Grant application process. However, the process has been undertaken in accordance with guidance and evaluation criteria developed as a result of consultation completed in 2013.

Feedback on the Community Grant process is being collated from groups who have benefited from Community Grant funding during 2014/15. As information is evaluated, trends and common factors will be identified and will potentially assist in making further improvements to the Community Grant process in the future.

A celebration of the Community Grant took place on 3 July 2015 with a number of previously successful applicants attending and highlighting how the Community Grant has enabled their projects to develop.

- 3.2 The Community Development Service will continue to actively engage with the local community to encourage the development of a variety of community groups and activities to support the development of Asset Based Working. Positive impacts have been realised as a result of 2014/15 Grant funding including vulnerable people living in the city being encouraged to share experiences and learn new skills and young people being supported in their own communities.

4. Timetable for implementing:

- 4.1 Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome their Community Grant application subject to Cabinet Member approval. Grant funding will be paid to successful applicants by 30 September 2015.

5. Comments from the Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

- 5.1.1. The total Community Grant Budget for 2015/16 is £100,000. A total of £32,214 is recommended for award during Round 1. £67,786 of the Community Grant is not yet recommended for allocation and will be available for allocation during Round 2.

Recommendations for grant awards as detailed in Table One are within the existing budget for Round 1.

5.2 Legal implications

- 5.2.1. The vires of or making the Community grants is section 1 of the Local Government Act 2011.
- 5.2.2. The grants will be made under the de minimis rule for state aid purposes. A grant aid agreement will be entered into between the Council and the applicant organisation

6. Other implications

6.1 **How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

The Community Grant Fund seeks to support voluntary and community sectors to:

- Improve Health and Wellbeing.
- Improve the local environment.
- Address community safety.
- Support and develop cohesive communities.
- Develop confidence and resilience within communities
- Increase opportunities for volunteering

All of which support the Council's key objectives and priorities.

6.2 **How is risk being managed?**

Risk will be managed through the existing risk management processes and frameworks. The Community Development Service will undertake monitoring activity to ensure that all successful applicants appropriately utilise their grants in line with Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) approval.

6.3 **What is the impact on the organisation?**

The fund will build on existing strengths within communities to enhance confidence and resilience. In some cases, the projects described in this report will provide residents with alternatives to Council provided services, potentially reducing demand. This directly supports the "Locally committed" elements of the Council Plan.

6.4 **Equalities / EIA**

Equalities impact data is now requested as part of the application process. This data will be analysed to better understand the impact of the Community Grant.

6.5 **Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

A small number of the projects described should have a positive impact on the local environment, such as the community projects to improve garden and outdoor play areas.

6.6 **Implications for partner organisations?**

Partner organisations should realise a positive impact as a result of Community Grant funding awards. As communities' confidence and skills grow they will be less reliant on some main stream services thereby potentially freeing up resources.

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Members: Councillor Townshend	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities		2.7.15	8.7.15

This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings .

Coventry City Council's

Community Grant Fund

Criteria 2015-16

Please read carefully before making an application



Coventry City Council

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Aim of the Community Grant Fund

Coventry City Council has established a grant fund of £100,000 to spend during 2015-2016 on community projects. Grants will be available at the discretion of the Council through two rounds of funding throughout the year. A timetable for applications is detailed on page 5 of this document.

This funding is intended to help Voluntary and Community groups throughout Coventry develop their capacity and promote positive sustainable change in neighbourhoods. Projects will be expected to enhance the local environment and/or improve the general health and well-being of citizens of Coventry.

This grant fund complements and supports the Council's objective of encouraging residents to "do more for themselves" and increase self-sufficiency. This will help further the development of actively engaged, sustainable, resilient communities within Coventry.

Objectives of the Scheme

This grant scheme seeks to achieve the objectives listed below through building on the strengths that exist in our communities. The application form will ask applicants to identify which of these objectives their project will contribute towards, and ask for details of how this will be achieved during the lifespan of the project.

- Deliver projects that will make Coventry an attractive, cleaner and greener city
- Support communities to become safer by developing networks and/or partnerships of communication, trust and co-operation.
- To improve health and wellbeing in the community
- To reduce health inequalities in the community and across the city
- To protect and support the most vulnerable in the local community
- To develop active citizens in strong actively engaged and sustainable communities

Who can apply?

The grant fund scheme is only open to groups that are based in Coventry. Groups can be, for example, youth groups, community development groups, cultural organisations, community centre associations, women's groups, residents associations, tenants associations and other similar organisations.

The scheme is aimed primarily at projects to develop a culture of 'doing it for ourselves' to enhance community resilience and to leave a legacy which will ensure the change/improvement is sustained.



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Eligible Costs:

Grants may be awarded towards the cost of the following, provided they meet the objectives.

1. Organisation / delivery of events.
2. Seminars or discussion groups.
3. Projects that create sustainable change/improvements.
4. Renting appropriate facilities.
5. Resource materials.
6. Improvements to buildings / IT etc that enhance service delivery opportunities for local communities.
7. Action research and small publication costs.

Please note: The maximum award payable to an organisation is £5,000 in any one funding round.

Exclusions

Grants will not be paid for:

1. Political or Religious activities
2. Retrospective events (things that have already happened)
3. Cash generative schemes (where an individual or organisation profits from the award)
4. Anything that the Council already funds
5. Single person activities
6. Furniture (Internal)



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Information on Application

Application forms will be available on line at the Council's website

<http://www.coventry.gov.uk/communitydevelopment>

or in paper copy from the Council House reception desk.

It is always best to apply as early as possible which will allow time for processing of the application, and for any enquiries to be made if necessary.

Organisations will be restricted to being awarded one grant per round. However, if a group has received funding in the past, they will need to demonstrate either that

1. This is an entirely new application with clear and differing objectives to previous applications
2. How additional funds will further develop and enhance earlier achievements for a project previously funded.

Applicants should understand that while careful consideration is given to each application, it may not be possible to fund all applicants to the extent requested, even if applications come within the criteria set out above.

When to Apply

Round 1: Deadline for applications is 4pm on Sunday 31 May 2015

Round 2: Deadline for applications is 4pm on Saturday 31 October 2015

Details of where to send your application is marked clearly on the application form.

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Decision Making Process

No application will be looked at until after the closing date.

Any incomplete applications will be returned without being considered (but can reapply once fully completed)

Decisions will be made by the relevant Cabinet Member.

Decisions will be final with no appeals considered.

Successful candidates will be notified within 12 weeks of the deadline date.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All successful applicants will be expected to monitor their achievements, and provide evidence of what the grant was spent on (keeping receipts and invoices is essential).

It is a condition of accepting a grant that within 12 months of receipt of the grant you will:

1. Let us know what the grant helped you to achieve
2. Tell us how your local community benefitted from you receiving the grant
3. Provide detail of how the grant was spent

A monitoring and evaluation form will be sent to all groups with their grant offer letter. This letter will specify conditions of accepting the grant, and advise how to return any unused grant.