

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING:	4 November 2021
TITLE OF REPORT:	COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME – PLATINUM JUBILEE
Report of:	Joint Chief Executive
Cabinet Portfolio:	Leader and Strategic Direction and Partnerships
Key Decision	No
Confidentiality	Non Exempt

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for a pilot Councillor Community Grant which would support the Council's Corporate Plan priority of supporting both healthy communities and people.
- 1.2 This would enable the introduction of ward-based approach to funding projects, which in the pilot year, would support the coming together of our communities, after a long period of social separation, to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. It also supports our equality objectives through funding projects that encourages community cohesion.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the policy for adopting a ward-based approach for awarding of Ward based community grants, as attached at appendix one, for the purpose of a one year trial specifically to bring communities together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The council has, for many years, been in a fortunate position to be able to provide significant funding towards a range of Voluntary Sector organisations including Hart Voluntary Action, Citizens Advice Hart, Hampshire Inclusion, Fleet Phoenix, Basingstoke Canal and the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust.
- 3.2 However our work, both directly with our communities and indirectly through our voluntary sector partners has dramatically increased, throughout the Covid pandemic. As reported to Cabinet in September, this has included a wide range of activity including awarding grants to community groups who support vulnerable residents, provision of a new home help service, help for those who were unemployed via our employment support hub as well as provision of our covid hardship fund for those most in need.

- 3.3 Our active involvement in our communities has continued to grow, as part of our Here for Hart programme, build on the Supporting Communities Plan (adopted by Cabinet) which aims to ensure we work with people and partners in our places to
1. Support communities to recover from the impacts of the pandemic
 2. Better understand and tackle social and health inequalities
 3. Nurture safe, supportive and inclusive communities

4 MAIN ISSUES

- 4.1 The Here for Hart programme works with our communities who advise us that people have really missed personal interaction, some people have lost the confidence to go out and about and there have been increases in anxiety and loneliness
- 4.2 One of the key aspects of feedback from our communities and partners was that they wanted to build upon from the Covid pandemic, was to continue the sense of community. To continue to grow the sense of togetherness.
- 4.3 A whole host of opportunities have been highlighted in the recent [Here for Hart Bulletin](#), however, the Platinum Jubilee provides another ideal opportunity to bring our communities together
- 4.4 To help in this ambition, a pilot Councillor Community Grant scheme is proposed, which would help support and fund community events and initiatives, delivering an opportunity to help continue to rebuild the sense of community, post pandemic, as well as contributing to the achievement of the council's Corporate plan priorities
- 4.5 The proposed scheme (set out in appendix 1) is a Ward based approach for determining applications for funding, rather than providing funding to individual members. This would facilitate the pooling of funds to support more expensive projects that could have greater impact within the community. However, where Members could not reach agreement within a Ward on the applications to be supported, each Member may take responsibility for a third of the total Ward funding.
- 4.6 The scheme would be open for bids, if adopted by the Cabinet, from the 1st December and would be open until the 1st May.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 To continue the status quo with regard to funding to our voluntary and community sector and not seek to pilot a Councillor Community Grant Scheme. However this would not provide the opportunity to test the efficacy of such a scheme, nor support our communities in this important post pandemic environment.

6 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

This proposed scheme fully supports The Hart Vision 2040 ambition which is to continue to build a great sense of community, reducing social isolation, celebrating our diversity and through this increasing community connectedness and resilience.

Service Plan

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	No
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	Yes
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	No

Legal and Constitutional Issues

The proposed Councillor Community Grants scheme does not present any legal implications.

Financial and Resource Implications

Reserves were released by Cabinet to support the delivery of the Supporting Communities Plan and in particular the Here for Hart initiative of which this proposal forms a part. As such, this proposal is fully funded.

Should the pilot be successful and the Council wish to continue with a Councillor Community Grant Scheme, further funding sources would need to be identified or established within annual budget cycle processes.

The aim is to make the scheme simple to administer and simple to deliver, as such we hope that other than promoting the scheme, there would be no significant officer resource requirement.

Risk Management

The scheme proposes that Town and Parish councils may apply on behalf of unconstituted community groups, however they may not wish to engage. We will seek to carefully manage communications to reduce this risk.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 We have considered our public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Councillor Community Grant would not have a negative impact on those protected by the Act. The approach actively encourages applications from organisations who represent minority or vulnerable groups, particularly that improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups and encourage community cohesion.

7.2 The criteria for the scheme makes it clear we will not fund applications that do not align with the council’s equalities objectives and/or the Equality Act 2010. The standard conditions also refer to the organisations having appropriate policies in place to comply with equalities legislation.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no anticipated climate change implications arising directly from the proposed scheme. Indeed the scheme specifically aims to support local or neighbourhood level celebrations which would encourage active sustainable transport

9 ACTION

9.1 Subject to approval by Cabinet, we would seek to share this information with all Ward Members, offering an all Councillor Briefing on the scheme, to provide helpful guidance and advice in the administration and delivery of the scheme.

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Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Councillor Community Grant Scheme – Platinum Jubilee							



Hart District Council
Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Councillor Community Grant Scheme Guidance

Hart District Council has agreed to set up a grants fund to recognise the
QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The official 4-day celebration weekend will be held from 2 June 2022 till 5 June 2022

For each Ward a total of £1000 grant funding is available.

Grants can be made for a maximum of £1000, per Ward for example just one successful grant application, or a number of different applications can be made and awarded, up to a total of £1000 for that Ward area.

Basic rules of the scheme

- Projects must benefit the communities in the councillor's ward and directly deliver towards the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee in that area.
- The minimum grant is £100 and the maximum £1,000 for each Ward
- Applications to this grant scheme will be considered by all Ward members together.
- In the event that Members within a Ward are unable to reach consensus on which applications to support, Members within a Ward may agree to split the grant funding, allocating £333.33 per Ward Member
- Applications will be considered and awarded on a first come, first served basis.
- Funding applications cannot be retrospective and no organisation should commit themselves to any spending before any final decision is made
- If the application is successful, you will have to provide evidence of the spend/receipts and photographs as appropriate.

Applications will be assessed on their individual merits and against the criteria within this guidance.

1. Hart District Council Councillor Community Grants will be offered to properly constituted community groups and Parish and Town Councils within Hart District on a Ward by Ward basis. Parish and Town Councils can collaborate with local unconstituted groups and apply on their behalf.
2. The fund will open on 2 January 2022. The closing date for this Grants scheme is when all funds have been allocated or 1st May 2022, whichever is sooner.
3. The expectation is that events will take place on the celebration weekend between 2 June 2022 and 5 June 2022.
4. Applications will be considered on their own merit as they are received by the Ward Councillors and applicants should be notified of the decision within 14 days of receipt.

5. All projects must demonstrate a clear link to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and actively benefit Hart residents, promoting access for all and community wellbeing.
6. Funding will not be granted towards firework displays.
7. Application demonstrating that Hart District Council funding is matched funded pound for pound by other funds will be given greater weight. All applicants will need to show they have a bank account in place to process the grant.
8. All community events must, in some way, acknowledge Hart District Council's contribution and are encouraged to do so on any publicity material, or social media used to promote the event
9. Advice about obtaining public liability insurance, licences etc may be sought from Town and Parish Councils and Hart Voluntary Action (HVA).
10. Ward Councillors must advise Hart District Council of any successful applications and bank details to enable payment.
11. Any grant funding unspent or uncommitted on the 6th June 2022 will return to the Councils reserve for Here for Hart.

Who or what is not eligible under this scheme:

- Applications from
 - Other public sector bodies (excluding Town and Parish Councils) or the delivery of any statutory obligations
 - Individuals (including making payments to individuals on behalf of community groups)
 - Private businesses or political or lobbying groups
 - Organisations who operate a grant scheme of their own or who budget for giving grants/donations as part of their annual budget
 - Nationwide organisations (with the exception for nationwide organisations based in Hart who will deliver the output solely to the benefit of Hart residents)
- Applications which contribute to the core/recurring revenue costs like salaries, rent, rates or ongoing hire fees of organisations
- Applications on behalf of third parties (with the exception of Town and Parish Councils on behalf of unconstituted community groups)
- Projects that don't align with the council's equalities objectives and/or the Equality Act 2010 or seeks to 'pre-discriminate' certain members of the community
- Projects that will only benefit a small number of individuals (it must benefit a minimum of 5 or more people and greater weight will be given to projects that bring whole communities together, no matter the size of that community)



Hart District Council
Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Councillor Community Grant
APPLICATION FORM

1	Name of Organisation	
	Project title	
2	Applicant details:	
	Name	
	Position in Organisation	
	Telephone	
	Email	
3	Organisation details:	
	Address	
	Telephone (if different from above)	
	Email (if different from above)	
	Organisation type	
	Charity/Company number	
	What does your organisation do?	
	If successful, please name the organisation that will receive and hold the funds	

4	Name of <u>Ward area</u> you are requesting funding from	Amount of funding requested (maximum of £1,000 per Ward)

5	Please describe your Platinum Jubilee project:
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6	What value will your project add to the local community?
7	How many people will benefit?
8	Can you demonstrate any long term benefit from the event?
9	If you feel your project is beneficial to the environmental, please explain how.

10	How will you measure the impact your project has made?
11	Any additional supporting information:
	<p>Please note: Greater weight will be given to applications which</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Benefit whole communities and Are able to be part funded from other sources All successful applications must in some way acknowledge Hart District Council's contribution are encouraged to do so on any publicity material, or social media used to promote the event A condition of any successful applications is the requirement to provide evidence of spend through the provision of receipts etc.

12	<p><u>Project Cost Breakdown</u></p> <p>Please use the tables below to list the income and expenditure expected for this project. <u>Your total expenditure should match your total income. <i>Please provide evidence of the costs listed below</i></u></p>								
	<p>Expenditure (please list all costs for this project):</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> </tr> </table>		£		£		£		£
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		£
		£
	Total project cost:	£

Income (please list all income including grants, sponsorship, subscriptions, in-kind support, match funding etc and please indicate whether the funding is confirmed or pending):		
<i>Hart Councillor Community grant (if successful)</i>		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£
	Total project income (must match total project cost):	£

Does your organisation work with children or vulnerable adults?	
Does your organisation have a Safeguarding Policy? If yes, please state when it was last updated/adopted.	
If your organisation does work with children, or vulnerable adults but you do not currently have a Safeguarding Policy in place, you will need to contact our Safeguarding Lead (Rachel Wilkinson) regarding adopting one in line with the council's.	