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**Subject:** ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME FOR 2019/2020

**Meeting and Date:** Cabinet – 1 July 2019

**Report of:** Mike Davis, Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor M J Holloway, Portfolio Holder for Community  
and Tourism

**Decision Type:** Non-Key

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Purpose of the report:** To agree the funding timetable and total grant pot for 2019/20 of £25,000, and to consider the nominations for Dover District Council Member representation on the Community Grant Scheme panel for 2019/20.

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**Recommendations:** To appoint DDC representatives to the Community Grants Appraisal Panel as set out in Table 1 at paragraph 5.2 of this report, and agree the total grant funding level of £25,000.

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## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 The Community Grants Scheme is operated by the Council to provide grants to local charities, volunteer groups and similar organisations. For 2019/20 the Council will provide £22.5k from its own budget plus a further £2.5k from the Council's share of the district lotto. This will be distributed within 5 areas across the district by Member panels.
- 1.2 In addition to this year's Community Grant scheme, since its launch in January 2019, local good causes are predicted to benefit from an estimated additional £39.3k annually from the Dover District Lotto. Combined with the Dover Community Grant scheme, this therefore provides a total of over £64k going back into the local voluntary and community organisations in the district this year.
- 1.3 The remainder of this report sets out:
  - Nominations for DDC representation on the Community Grants Scheme
  - The funding available
  - Grants awarded in 2018/19
  - The timetable for 2019/20
  - Future review of the scheme
  - Options

## **2 Community Grants Scheme Funding**

- 2.1 DDC has allocated £22,500 of grant funding to the DDC Community Grants Scheme in the 2019-20 budget to award as small grants to support the delivery of projects that benefit local communities. The funding will be split across areas based on population density as detailed in the table at paragraph 5.2 as per previous years.
- 2.2 DDC will also inject the current available £2,500 from the Dover District Lotto Central Fund Reserve (CFR) into the Community Grants Scheme funding pot for 2019-20 as

approved by Cabinet in October 2018. This figure is based on the funds received by DDC from the CFR from the first draw on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019. This amount will be split equally between the 5 areas, providing an additional £500 per area as shown in table 1 below.

- 2.3 As the Community Grant process evolves, it is proposed that this should then be reflected in the current grant funding distribution, to meet local identified requirements in line with the corporate plan in future years. It is recommended to remain with the current geographical funding process this year, whilst a full review is undertaken in 2019/20 in line with the corporate plan priorities and new ward boundaries, to consider a move towards a thematic funding process from April 2020. This will also be supported by a larger additional CFR contribution in 2020/21 currently estimated to be circa £11.5k based on current ticket sales, providing an estimated total pot of £34k for 2020-21 Dover Community Grant scheme.

### **3 Summary of 2018/19 DDC Community Grants**

- 3.1 More organisations than ever before (52 in total) applied for grant funding from the scheme in 2018/19, including some new 'start up' community groups. Funding totalling £22,500 was allocated to 32 different community groups across the district. This was allocated as follows:

- 9 projects in Deal & Walmer,
- 4 projects in Dover North,
- 9 projects in Dover Town,
- 5 projects in Dover West,
- 5 projects in Sandwich & Area.

Projects included supporting youth, the elderly and the wider community, securing more sport and tourism into the district, as well as helping the environment and expanding digital capabilities.

- 3.2 The grant scheme funded a wide variety of projects including capital costs, enabling charities, clubs and groups to outright buy items & equipment to help run their projects. The scheme also funded revenue costs helping to buy in activities or services, as well as consumable costs, items that can be used up.
- 3.3 Cllr Sue Chandler, Chairman of Dover District Council over this period attended various monitoring visits to see how these projects benefited from the funding. These included Blackfish Academy, Elvington Heritage Group, Deal and Walmer Sea Scouts, Dover Youth Theatre and Whitfield Football Club
- 3.4 An awards evening for successful grant recipients was hosted by DDC at Betteshanger Social Welfare Scheme, Deal on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August with over 70 attendees attending to showcase their projects and celebrate the community benefit they bring to the District.

### **4 Review for 2019/20**

- 4.1 It is proposed that a full review of the current Community Grant scheme is undertaken in 2019/20 in line with the corporate plan and new ward boundaries; and to consider a move towards a thematic funding process from April 2020 addressing local district needs, this will be undertaken by the Community Services Team working in conjunction with the portfolio holder.

**5 Nominations for DDC representation on the Community Grants Scheme during 2019/20**

- 5.1 The Council's group leaders nominate councillors to represent DDC on the Community Grant Scheme Appraisal Panel
- 5.2 Nominated DDC representation for the DDC Community Grants appraisal panel members 2019-20

**Table1**

Community Grant Allocation Areas	Current Allocated Funding amount	DDC Members
Deal & Walmer	£5,850 (+£500 CFR)	Cllr Holloway (C) (Chair) Cllr Bond (C) Cllr Jull (C) Cllr Mills (L) Cllr Brivio (L) Cllr Beer (L)
Dover North	£3,375 (+£500 CFR)	
Dover Town	£6,300 (+£500 CFR)	
Dover West	£3.375 (+£500 CFR)	
Sandwich Area	£3,600 (+£500 CFR)	

**6 Timetable for 2019/20**

- 6.1 The outline timetable for delivering the 2019-20 Dover District Council Community Grants

**Table 2: Annual Delivery Timetable for DDC Community Grants programme**

Target Dates	Objective
1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019	Cabinet approve the DDC community grant scheme.
Early July (date tbc)	Portfolio Holder for Community and Tourism briefing for grant panel members.
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	DDC Community Grants opened to applications (6 weeks).
12 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2019	DDC Community Grants closed to applications.
12 <sup>th</sup> Aug – 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2019	DDC Community Grants re-open if required due to underspend (2 weeks).
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2019	DDC Community Grants closed to applications.
Aug 2019	Eligibility checked & applications followed up.

Aug/Sep 2019	Appraisal packs prepared and sent out to panel.
6 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019 (tbc)	Appraisal panel meeting held and awards agreed.
Sep 2019	Grant payments distributed following Head of Service / Portfolio Holder sign off.
Sep 2019	Distribute grant payments.
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 (tbc)	Awards event to be held.
Oct 2019 – March 2020	Project monitoring.
April 2020	Annual review.

## **7 Identification of Options**

- 7.1 Options to be considered by cabinet in consideration of whether to deliver a Community grant scheme for the Dover District for 2019/20 are as follows.
- 7.2 Option 1 – withdraw availability of our £22,500 in light of the estimated £39,280 that is being potentially generated in the coming year by the Dover District Lottery.
- 7.3 Option 2 – keep the current available funding for the Community Grant Scheme the same as in previous years as £22,500.
- 7.4 Option 3 - increase the total grant pot for 2019/20 to £25,000 to include the allocated £22,500 and the current available funding of £2,500 from Central Funding Revenue of the Dover District Lottery.

## **8 Evaluation of Options**

- 8.1 Option 1 and 2 would go against previous approved criteria and impact on the delivery of social capacity and community building services by local voluntary and community sector organisations.
- 8.2 Option 3 - At Cabinet on 1st October 2018 the apportionment of the Lottery Central Fund to the DDC Community Grants programme was approved. This funding helps support our local voluntary and community sector provide important and much needed services in our district.

## **9 Recommendation**

- 9.1 To agree the proposed appointments to the Community Grants appraisal panel and the total budget of £25k.

## **10 Resource Implications**

- 10.1 The 2019/20 budget includes £22,500 for this scheme and £2,500 from the Dover District Lotto Central Fund Reserve (CFR) will also be added to the grant fund, as approved by Cabinet in Oct 2018.

## **11 Corporate Implications**

- 11.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance have been consulted and have no further comments to add. (HL)
- 11.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Head of Governance has been consulted during the preparation of this report and has no further comment to make. (LM)
- 11.3 Comment from the Equality Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>. (KS)

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