
Subject: ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME FOR 2022-2023

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 9 May 2022

Report of: Brinley Hill, Head of Community and Digital Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Oliver Richardson, Portfolio Holder for
Community and Corporate Property

Decision Type: Non-Key

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To approve the proposed criteria changes to the 2022-23
Dover District Council Community Grants Scheme.

Recommendations: To approve the proposed criteria changes as set out in
paragraph 4.2 of this report, utilising the £260,000 available to
the Community Grants Scheme.

1 Summary

1.1 The Dover District Council Community Grants Scheme is operated by the Council to provide grants to local charities, volunteer groups and similar organisations. For 2022-23 the Council has committed £222,500 from its own budget, plus a further £7.500 from the Council's share of the Dover District Lotto. As well as an underspend of £30,000, from the previous year. This will create a total grant pot of £260,000 that will be distributed within 5 areas across the district by Member panels.

1.2 The remainder of this report sets out:

- The funding available
- Summary of 2021/22
- Review for 2021/22
- DDC Member representation on the Community Grants Scheme

2 Community Grants Scheme Funding

2.1 DDC has allocated £222,500 of grant funding to the DDC Community Grants Scheme in the 2022-23 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 in paragraph 5.2 as per previous years.

2.2 DDC will also inject £7,500 from the Dover District Lotto Central Fund Reserve (CFR) into the Community Grants Scheme funding pot for 2022-23 as approved by Cabinet in October 2018. This figure is based on the projected income generated from the previous year. This amount will be split equally between the 5 areas, providing an additional £1,500 per area.

3 Summary of 2021/22 DDC Community Grants

- 3.1 Community groups and organisations across the district benefited from more than £198,000 funding from Dover District Council in 2021-22 in a record breaking round of the Community Grants Scheme.
- 3.2 More organisations than ever before applied for grant funding from the scheme in 2021/22, including some new 'start up' community groups. Funding totalling £198,946.30 to was allocated to 184 different community groups across the district
- 3.3 Projects included supporting young people, residents with disabilities and the wider community, securing more sport and tourism into the district, as well as helping the environment and expanding digital capabilities.
- 3.4 The grant scheme funded a wide variety of projects including capital costs enabling charities, clubs and groups to buy items and equipment outright to help run their projects. The scheme also funded revenue costs, helping to buy in activities or services. As well as consumable costs, which are items that can be used up.

4 Review for 2021/22 DDC Community Grants

- 4.1 A full review took place on Monday 28th March 2022. Conducted by the Community Grant Scheme Appraisal Panel Members, alongside Brin Hill - Head of Community Services, Elliott Allen - Community Development Officer and Chloe Knight – Assistant Community Development Officer.
- 4.2 The following recommendations that were proposed:

Current criteria	Proposed changes
1. Within the current criteria, applicants can apply for between £100 - £2000. (Terms & Condition 3).	1. It's proposed that applicants can apply for between £100 & £4000, in line with the further funding available.
2. Within the current criteria, applicants with an unrestricted reserve of over £75,000, are unable to apply. (Terms & Condition 13).	2. It's proposed that the unrestricted reserves cap be removed. Instead, applicants with available core funding, of over one year, will be unable to apply.
3. Within the current criteria, applicants have 12 months to deliver their project. (Terms & Condition 22).	3. It's proposed that applicants have a reduced 10 months to complete their project, to avoid any overlap between past and future rounds. This means when applications are being assessed, any previous year's monitoring, would have been submitted and signed off.
4. Within the current criteria, any underspend within any given area, is rolled over to the next Community Grant Scheme round.	4. It's proposed that any underspend within any given area, will be redistributed across successful applicants, to avoid any underspend rolling over to the next grant scheme round.

5 DDC Member representation on the Community Grants Scheme during 2022-23

- 5.1 The Council's group leaders have nominated councillors to represent DDC on the Community Grant Scheme Appraisal Panel.
- 5.2 Nominated DDC representation for the DDC Community Grants appraisal panel members 2022-23

Table1

Community Grant Allocation Areas	Current Allocated Funding amount	DDC Members
Deal & Walmer	£58,165.78	Cllr. Richardson (C) Cllr. Bond (C) Cllr. Jull (C) Cllr. Mills (L) Cllr. Brivio (L) Cllr. Beer (L)
Dover North	£45,961.56	
Dover Town	£47,800.00	
Dover West	£57,679.66	
Sandwich Area	£50,393.00	

6 Identification of Options

- 6.1 Options to be considered by Cabinet in consideration of whether to deliver a Community Grants Scheme for the Dover District for 2022/23 are as follows.
- 6.2 Option 1 – Continue with the current criteria, making no changes to how the scheme is delivered.
- 6.3 Option 2 – Continue with the recommendations from the appraisal panel, making necessary changes to how the scheme is delivered. Utilising the £260,000 available to the Community Grant Scheme. (£22.5k usual budget, 7.5k Dover Lotto injection, £30k underspend & £200k core budget injection).

7 Evaluation of Options

- 7.1 Option 1– This option would not allow the current criteria to develop under the growing challenges within our communities, and may impact negatively on the delivery of social capacity and community building services by local voluntary and community sector organisations.
- 7.2 Option 2 – This option would allow the current criteria to develop and provide further funding, helping to support our local voluntary and community sector organisations provide important and much-needed services in our district.

Recommendation: Option 2 - To continue with the proposed criteria changes, utilising the £260,000 available to the Community Grants Scheme

8 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

8.1 This report has no implications on Climate Change or on the local Environment.

9 Resource Implications

9.1 The Grant allocation will be funded as below:

- £200,000 allocated in the 2022/23 MTFP budget from the Special Revenue Projects
- £22,500 allocated as the normal annual Neighbourhood Forums Funding
- £30,000 unspent allocation from 2021/22
- £7,500 allocation from the Dover District Lotto Central Fund Reserve (CFR), as approved by cabinet in October 2018.

10 Corporate Implications

10.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Accountancy has been consulted on the report and have no further comments to add. (LS)

10.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

10.3 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/section/149>

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