
Subject: ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME FOR 2023/2024

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 4 September 2023

Report of: Brinley Hill, Head of Transformation

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Charlotte Zosseder, Portfolio Holder for
Community and Corporate Property

Decision Type: Non-Key

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To approve the proposed criteria and rebranding of the Dover District Council Community Grants Scheme, ahead of the 2023/24 grant scheme round.

Recommendations:

- (a) To approve the proposed rebranding and criteria changes set out at paragraph 4.2 of this report, utilising the £55,277.29 available to the Community Grants Scheme (comprising £22,500 usual budget, £7,500 Dover Lotto injection and £25,000 underspend). (Option 2)
- (b) To supplement Option 2 with an injection of £30,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. (Option 3)

1. Summary

1.1.1 The Dover District Council (DDC) Community Grants Scheme is operated by the Council to provide grants to local charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs) and constituted community groups. Ordinarily, £22,500 is made available from the annual Community Grant Scheme. However, for the 2023-24 round, the Council has committed a total of £55,277.29 from its core budget. On top of £22,500, this includes £7,500 from the Council's share of the Dover District Lotto, alongside an underspend of £25,277.29 from the previous year.

1.1.2 It is also proposed to Supplement Option 2 with an injection of £30,000 which is available from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

1.2 The remainder of this report sets out:

2. Funding available
3. Summary of 2022/23 Community Grant Scheme
4. Review for 2023/24
5. DDC Member representation on the Appraisal Panel

2 Funding Available

- 2.1.1 DDC has continually allocated £22,500 of grant funding to the DDC Community Grants Scheme, which is available once again during the 2023/24 financial year.
- 2.1.2 A grand total of £236,000 was awarded during 2022/23. From the £260,000 available, an underspend of £25,277.29 was unspent within three areas, as disclosed in the below table.

Community Grant Allocation Areas	2022/23 underspend
Deal & Walmer	£0
Dover North	£4,564.23
Dover Town	£0
Dover West	£9,481.44
Sandwich Area	£11,231.62

- 2.1.3 DDC will also inject £7,500 from the Dover District Lotto Central Fund Reserve (CFR) into the funding pot for 2023/24, as approved by Cabinet in October 2018. This figure is based on the projected income generated from the previous year.
- 2.1.4 DDC will also inject £30,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in the 2023-24 budget, to award funding to impactful voluntary and social action projects that benefit local communities.

3 Summary of 2022/23 Community Grants Scheme

- 3.1.1 Due to an injection of £200,000 from the 2022/23 Medium-Term Financial Plan Special Revenue Projects, the previous Community Grant Scheme round had a record-breaking pot of £260,000 to allocate, in which 138 good causes across the district benefited from the scheme. More organisations than ever before applied for grant funding from the scheme in 2022/23, including some new 'start up' community groups.
- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.2 The grant scheme funded a wide variety of projects including capital and consumable 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.

4 Review for 2023/24

- 4.1.1.1 In line with the Council's Cost of Living Plan, it is proposed that the existing community grant scheme is refocused, in line with the Council's pledge in supporting those most in need.
- 4.2 While the rise in the cost of living will impact most households, the impact will be greatest on those already living in poverty and those on low incomes. Therefore, after

an internal review, the following recommendations have been proposed, to refocus the funding available:

Current Criteria	Proposed Changes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within the current criteria, the Community Grant Scheme provides funding for projects resulting in direct community benefit, across the Dover district. 2. Within the current criteria, applicants can apply for between £100 - £4000. 3. Previously, the scheme launched earlier in the year, and facilitated two grant rounds. 4. Previously, the Community Grant Scheme funding is allocated across 5 KCC Neighbourhood Forum boundaries, and split financially by 2011 population density percentages, across the 5 areas. 5. Previously, any injection of funds is allocated evenly across all 5 areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's proposed that the scheme is rebranded as the Cost-of-Living Community Impact Fund, providing funding to help support projects bridging the cost-of-living gap for our local communities. 2. It's proposed that applicants can apply for between £100 & £2500, in order to spread the available funding more widely. 3. It's proposed that the scheme facilitates one grant round. 4. It's proposed that the funding available is not categorised by area, but instead themed through cost-of-living, ensuring applications are focused on supporting our communities in financial hardship. 5. It's proposed that any injection of funds is added to the overall funding pot.

5 DDC Member Representation on 2023/24 Appraisal Panel

5.1.1 The Council's group leaders have nominated councillors to represent DDC on the Appraisal Panel. Nominated panel members for 2023/24 are as follows.

Table 1

DDC Members
Cllr Zosseder (L) (Chair)
Cllr Brivio (L)
Cllr Beer (L)
Cllr Richardson (C)
Cllr Beaney (C)
Cllr Back (C)

6 Identification of Options

6.1.1 Options to be considered by Cabinet in consideration of whether to deliver a Community Grants Scheme for the Dover District for 2023/24 are as follows.

- 6.1.2 Option 1 – Continue with the current criteria, making no changes to how the scheme is delivered. Utilising the £55,277.29 available to the Community Grant Scheme. (£22.5k usual budget, 7.5k Dover Lotto injection, and £25k underspend).
- 6.1.3 Option 2 – Continue with the recommendations from the review making necessary changes to how the scheme is delivered. Utilising the £55,277.29 available to the Community Grant Scheme. (£22.5k usual budget, 7.5k Dover Lotto injection, and £25k underspend).
- 6.1.4 Option 3 – Supplement one of the above options, with the injection of the £30,000 available, from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

7 Evaluation of Options

- 7.1.1 Option 1 – This option would not allow the current criteria to change under the growing financial challenges and will not enable the panel to spread available funding across a variety of local good causes.
- 7.1.2 Option 2 – This option would allow the current criteria to develop and provide focused further funding, to help support projects bridging the cost-of-living gap for our local communities.
- 7.1.3 Option 3 – This option would enhance the funding pot, to provide a wider level of financial support to local voluntary and community sector organisations. This will also provide a developed framework to allocate said funds.

8 Recommendation

- 8.1.1 Option 1 – Not recommended.
- 8.1.2 Option 2 - To continue with the proposed criteria changes, utilising the £55,277.29 available under the rebranded Cost-of-Living Community Impact Fund.
- 8.1.3 Option 3 - Supplement Option 2, with the injection of the £30,000 available from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

9 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 9.1.1 This report has no implications on Climate Change or on the local environment.

10 Resource Implications

- 10.1 The Grant allocation will be funded as below:
- £22,500 allocated as the normal annual Community Grant Scheme
 - £25,277.29 unspent allocation from 2022/23
 - £7,500 allocation from the Dover District Lotto Central Fund Reserve (CFR), as approved by cabinet in October 2018.
 - £30,000 allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

11 Corporate Implications

- 11.1.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: The S151 Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no additional comments to make.

11.1.2 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.

11.1.3 Comment from the Equality Officer: This report relating to the arrangements for Dover District Council Community Grants Scheme for 2023-2024 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>

12 Background Papers

12.1 Dover District Council - Cost of Living Plan 2023

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