



TITLE OF CONSULTATION: AMENDMENT OF CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

**OFFICER REQUESTING: ELIZABETH HEATH
HEAD OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND
MONITORING OFFICER**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To amend the criteria for Community Grant Applications to ensure that the increased funding for Grant Applications can be allocated within the financial year. Further, the processing of Applications to gain access to the available funding is time sensitive and therefore it is imperative that the team can commence the work associated with the Scheme can commence immediately.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The criteria for Community Grant Applications is amended and the Team commence processing Applications immediately.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 On 17 March 2022, the Policy & Resources Committee approved the recommendation to Full Council that the criteria for Applications for a Community Grant could be amended, therefore ensuring that available funds could be allocated within the financial year.

The Agenda for Full Council on 7 April 2022 omitted to include the Community Grants Part B Report the recommendations of which had been approved by the Policy & Resources Committee. The omission of the Report regarding the Council's ability to launch the Community Grants Scheme in a timely manner has implications for the processing of the Applications which is time sensitive. Further, in addition to the Policy & Resources Committee approving the recommendation to amend the criteria for Applications, the Community Grants Working Party had also previously agreed the amendment to the criteria.

If the matter is delayed until the next Full Council meeting on 7 July 2022, this would impact the processing of the Applications, the ability to allocate the funds in the financial year, and place a considerable burden of work on the team. Additionally, this would place further pressure on Elected Members to review and approve the Applications.

Further, as the process is time sensitive, the second closing date for Applications being

26 August 2022, the timeline is too tight to launch the Scheme with the new criteria and importantly, for Groups applying under the Scheme to make their Applications which include the increased figures. Also, a further implication would be that the Council will only have time to launch two rounds of the application process to allocate the increased funding monies.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 If the Urgency Power is not utilised, there is a significant risk that the processing of Applications and the awarding of funding will be compromised.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
There is a significant financial implication to Groups applying for Community Grants if the matter is not progressed immediately.
- b) Legal
The Council has a legal obligation to award appropriate funding within an approved budget.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
There are implications for Equalities and Staffing if the Urgency Power is not invoked and Applications and payments are delayed. Further, there will be increased pressure on Staff within the Team.

6.0 MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

The Group Leaders have been consulted on the need to use the Urgency Power to permit the amendment to the criteria to be implemented and the Application process to commence. Further, they have been advised as to the reason for the omission from the Full Council Agenda on 7 April 2022 and the significant risks and implications for not proceeding at this time.

7.0 CONSULTATION RECORD

According to the Constitution, under urgency powers, decisions usually taken by the Council and its committees are taken by the CEO following consultation with the appropriate elected members.

The appropriate elected members are:

- The Leader of the Council
- The Chair of the appropriate committee, for matters relating to that specific committee¹
- Relevant Ward member(s), if any, for matters of particular relevance to that ward²

Name of Consultee	Cllr D Keal
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¹ "Chairman of the appropriate Committee" refers to committee specific matters and does not mean that all Committee Chairs will be consulted on everything

² "Relevant Ward Member(s), if any" refers to ward specific matters and does not mean that all Members will be consulted on everything

Proposal advised in an email dated 14 April 2022. Advised that if No formal response received by close of business on 20 April 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.

Date consultation completed	14/04/22
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Name of Consultee	Cllr S Arnold
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Proposal advised in an email dated 14 April 2022. Advised that if No formal response received by close of business on 20 April 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. Formal response received 16 April 2022.

Date consultation completed	14/04/22
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	Cllr J Frank
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Proposal advised in an email dated 14 April 2022. Advised that if No formal response received by close of business on 20 April 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.

Date consultation completed	14/04/22
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Name of Consultee	Cllr M Potter
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Proposal advised in an email dated 14 April 2022. Advised that if No formal response received by close of business on 20 April 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. Formal response received 14 April 2022.

Date consultation completed	14/04/22
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Name of Consultee	Cllr K Duncan
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Proposal advised in an email dated 14 April 2022. Advised that if No formal response received by close of business on 20 April 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.

Date consultation completed	14/04/22
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Name of Consultee	Cllr L Burr
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Proposal advised in an email dated 14 April 2022. Advised that if No formal response received by close of business on 20 April 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No Formal response received.

Date consultation completed	01/02/22
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8.0 DECISION

Decision of the CEO based on consultation	To be completed after consultation
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Date 22 April 2022	The recommendation is approved having taken advice on the balance of risk to the organisation; it is essential that the Council implements the Scheme immediately to fulfil its responsibilities to Community Grant applicants with regard to
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	available increased funding.
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