

This Report will be made public on 27 November 2023.

Report Number: **OS/23/05**

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**To:** Finance and Performance Sub Committee

**Date:** 5 December 2023

**Status:** Non Key Decision

**Responsible Officer:** Ewan Green, Director of Strategy & Resources

**SUBJECT:** OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

**SUMMARY:** This report presents an overview of grants made by the Council to external community based organisations.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with information to support their consideration of the emerging draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2024-25.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. To receive and note report OS/23/05.
2. To consider the overview of community based external grants in order to inform feedback on the emerging draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2024-25.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of the 2024-25 budget development a detailed review of all Council expenditure been undertaken through a Priority Based Budget process which sought to identify potential savings to support the overall. This included budgets which are used to provide external grants.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

- 2.1 The Council General Fund Revenue Budget includes a range of grant payments made by the Council to external organisations. These are predominantly community based organisations and support activities which are in line with the Council's corporate priorities and includes Member Ward Grants.
- 2.2 The total funding available is confirmed annually as part of the approval of the General Revenue Fund by Council. Grants which are for larger amounts, or are over more than one year, are agreed by Cabinet or through an individual Cabinet Member Decision. Some smaller grants, particularly those made in year, are made following consultation between the Cabinet Member and officers and in line with the Council constitution.
- 2.3 The level of grant provided ranges from under £1k to £150k per year. Grants have related legal agreements in place which sets out criteria by which they will be monitored. Some smaller grants will be managed via a basic letter of award and action plan setting out outcomes to be achieved.

Grants are provided over a range of timescales (e.g. 1-3 year agreements or bespoke one off grants made in year). In relation to Member Ward Grants, multiple awards can be made to one organisation.

- 2.4 The General Fund total funding for 2023-24 and proposed for 2024-25 is outlined below:

	<b>23/24</b>	<b>24/25</b>
Community Grants	£354,950	£321,650
Member Ward Grants	£ 90,000	£75,000
Total	£443,450	£345,150

It should be noted that the total value for community grants noted above is the aggregate of a number of budgets across the Council and excludes ongoing activity costs for statutory services such as safeguarding and community safety and corporate projects such as support for the Armed Forces covenant.

It should also be noted that it is proposed to reduce the total funding available for Ward grants to £75,000 in 2024-25.

- 2.5 Appendix One to this report provides community grants budget detail and expenditure for 2023-24 and outlines proposed funding allocations for 2024-25 following the priority Based Budget process.

Appendices Two and Three provide details on Member Ward Grants made in 2022-23 and to date in 2023-24.

- 2.6 Members are asked to consider the overview of community based external grants in order to inform feedback on the emerging draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2024-25.

### **3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 3.1 There are no risk management issues directly arising from this report.

### **4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER POLICY MATTERS**

#### **4.1 Legal Officer's Comments (NM)**

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

#### **4.2 Finance Officer's Comments (JS)**

The financial implications arising out of this report are contained within the main body of the report.

#### **4.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (EG)**

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

#### **4.4 Climate Change Implications (EG)**

There are no climate implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting;

Ewan Green, Director of Strategy and Resources

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

### **Appendices**

**Appendix One: Overview of Community Grants**

**Appendix Two: Overview of Members Ward Grants 2022-23**

**Appendix Three: Overview of Members Ward Grants 2023-24**