

Cherwell District Council

Executive

6 November 2023

Voluntary Sector Wellbeing Grants Statement 2023 -2025

Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing

This report is public

Purpose of report

To provide and approve the statement on the provision of grants to the voluntary sector organisations

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To approve the Wellbeing Grants to voluntary sector statement 2023-2025 as provided.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 A recent internal audit of our wellbeing grant aid programme recommended that a greater clarity was provided to organisations regarding any grant aid opportunities the Council provided.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 To support our residents, business and voluntary organisations, Cherwell District council administers specific grant opportunities pending availability of both revenue or capital funding
- 3.2 This Statement of wellbeing grants to voluntary organisations will be published on the Council website so that organisations requiring support would know how those decision for grant aid are made.
- 3.3 The Council makes funding available to organisations whose work delivers benefit to residents and contributes to the achievement of the Council's Business Plan aim of enabling healthy, resilient, and engaged communities

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The adoption of this Statement and subsequent publication will improve transparency for organisations who are seeking funds.

5.0 Consultation

None with external stakeholders but research into comparable councils' approaches endorses the approach being adopted.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to have a statement sharing the framework.
Rejected as the publication of the framework makes it easier for community and not-for-profit organisations to understand what and how we fund activity in communities as a council.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The Council has a wellbeing budget of £238,000 in total for grants to bona fide voluntary and charitable organisations, across several categories of activity, for example play and young people, older people, arts development, community nature activity, partnership support to name a few. This policy will ensure that the grants are allocated to deliver schemes that further the Council's corporate objectives.

Comments checked by:
Kelley Wheeler, Finance Business Partner, 01295 221570
Kelly.wheeler@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 The terms and conditions would need to be developed to accord with the grant. There will need to be termination notice period built in to ensure that the grant is not an ongoing commitment.

Comments checked by:
Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director for Law & Governance,
shiraz.sheikh@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 No risks arising directly from this report. Improving the understanding of how funding decisions can be made is beneficial to external groups and support officers to make good decisions, mitigating any potential risk as a result.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 01295 221556

Celia.Prado-Teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Equalities and Inclusion Implications

- 7.4 Due weight has been given to equality, diversity and inclusion in the statement satisfying the duty that in planning, delivering, monitoring and evaluating our work, equality and diversity issues are appropriately considered from the outset.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 01295 221556

Celia.Prado-Teeling@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: Yes

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Healthy, resilient, and engaged communities

Lead Councillor

Councillor Phil Chapman, Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Safe Communities

Document Information

Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 - Voluntary Sector Wellbeing Grants Statement 2023 - 2025

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

Nicola Riley, Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing

01295 221742 nicola.riley@cherwell-dc.gov.uk