



Present

Members: Cllr M A McKillop (Chairperson); Ald. N Hillis; Ald. A McQuillan; Cllr Leanne Peacock (Sub on behalf of Cllr D Nicholl)

Officers: P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager; O Duffy, Compliance & Verification Officer; L Bell, Service Support Officer

NO.		ACTIONS
1.	Welcome	
	Cllr McKillop welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Apologies	
	Cllr D Nicholl; Cllr M Storey; Ald. G Duddy	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
	None	
4.	Minutes of GGP meeting 17th Feb 2022	
	Proposed by Ald. Hillis Seconded by Cllr. MA McKillop	
5.	Landfill Communities Fund Policy Review	
	POB explained that the TOR for the GGP includes review of policies. This would include Landfill Communities Fund Grant Policy and Council's Grant Funding Policy. POB is not proposing any changes this year to the LCF Policy. She read through principles of LFC Policy and highlighted that eligibility for funding is determined through ENTRUST'S specified criteria. Cllr McQuillan proposed that LFC fund stays open all year and closes when money runs out. Seconded by Cllr Peacock.	POB to take recommendation to Annual Review Members Workshop 15 th Sept 22

NO.		ACTIONS
6.	Grants Funding Policy Review	
	<p>POB explained that there had been substantial changes made to the Grants and Funding Programme 2022-23 and that for 2023-24, after having completed a desktop review of policy, she was recommending no changes be made. POB read through the principles that the Grant Funding Policy is built on.</p> <p>Cllr McQuillan Proposed; Seconded by Cllr Peacock.</p>	<p>POB to bring to Members Workshop</p>
7.	Presentation of Community Grants 2023	
	<p>POB gave a breakdown of the number of applications made, the number of projects and the amount of funding awarded for the period 2016-23. There were almost 4000 applications made, nearly 3000 projects funded and just over that 8.5 million pounds awarded. Cllr Peacock commended the FU and Cllr McQuillan suggested that these statistics should be highlighted more in press etc. Cllr McKillop asked POB if this would be possible. POB explained that FU could work with Council PR Department and when we hit '3000' projects we could get a press release arranged. All were in agreement. Cllr McKillop suggested that grant recipients should complete their own publicity also and POB said this could be put in Letters of Offer going forward.</p> <p>• Community Development Support Grant</p> <p>52/55 applicants from 22-23 requested a 3-year contract totalling £140,378.02 and will receive LoO for Year 2 in April 2023 (subject to submission of satisfactory monitoring, claim documentation, annual accounts etc). Council agreed to an annual CPI increase which would equate to an additional £13,279 (9.4%).</p> <p>This was not offered in Letters of Offer.</p>	<p>POB and FU to arrange separate FU PR</p> <p>Panel recommend that the decision for a CPI Increase be revisited at Member's Workshop</p>

NO.		ACTIONS
	<p>Ald. Hillis felt that this cost was totally unaffordable, and it was agreed that this would be relooked at during Members Workshop. POB anticipates that further grant programmes may become available through DfC to help alleviate hardship.</p> <p>• Community Festivals Fund POB highlighted that DFC set the criteria for CFF grant and has always been a difficult fund to apply to. There are currently eight questions in the application form and a lot of criteria for a relatively small amount of money. She is proposing (subject to DFC agreement) that the number of questions be reduced to three, making the process much easier for groups. Cllr McKillop highlighted that it was difficult to hit the required amount of hours/days when arranging an event. POB to bring to Council Workshop in September and will check with L Scullion if hours/days of events is a DfC requirement or set by council.</p> <p>• SIG/Community Connections Fund POB explained that the Community Development team have been reviewing this fund over the last few months. They are recommending that the name be changed to the Social Connections Grant. They have been collaborating with NHSCT and Causeway Coast and Glens Loneliness Network regarding what the fund should look like and have secured match funding from NHSCT and WHSCT and possibly the Causeway GP Federation. This will enable us to increase the total budget available. It is being recommended that groups receive 100% of costs (currently 85%). They want to change the objectives to focus on loneliness and social isolation and to allow travel expenses for volunteers as an eligible cost. It is suggested that this fund be opened</p>	<p>POB to bring options for CFF to Members Workshop</p> <p>POB to bring to recommendations to Members Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention rate increased from 85% to 100% • Allow travel expenses for volunteers • Wait until February to open fund • Move to a rolling fund rather than a specified closing timeframe.

NO.		ACTIONS
	<p>separately in February as opposed to start of December and that the grants would remain open on a rolling basis with several closing dates during the year. The application form is very simple as is the scoring of same, being Pass/Fail.</p> <p>Cllr. Peacock expressed how these changes would be very welcome from community organisations, especially in rural areas, and open the grant up to more of the community.</p> <p>Ald.McQuillan concurred and thought it was good to recognise the volunteers who give up their own time and ease the burden for everyone.</p> <p>Ald. Hillis felt that this would make things easier for volunteers who shouldn't be out of pocket.</p>	
8.	Any other relevant business	
	None.	
9.	Date and time of next meeting	
	Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 th November @ 7pm.	LB

Meeting closed at 7:45pm.