

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

4th April 2023:

REPORT TO COUNCIL

18th April 2023:

Report of: Director Finance

Title: General Grants Policy

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report proposes a policy for that will enable the Council, from time to time when funds are available, to award grants to organisations to fund activities and tests of change that will contribute to the achievement of priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

2. Recommendations:

This the Executive recommends to Council to:

2.1 adopt this policy to ensure that, should the Council wish to award grants to organisations over and above those within the Community Grants Programme, it has clear and transparent decision-making process through which to identify opportunities, allocate funds and award grants.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Council is currently without an open and transparent policy within in which to award general grants should it have the desire and the funding to do so.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources?

4.1 None. There is no particular funding attached to the General Grants Policy, and the establishment of this policy is not a call for bids.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The proposed policy will allow the Council to allocate funds in a clear manner when, and if, resources are available. The policy makes it clear that Grants will either be approved by Executive, where there is an approved budget in place, or by recommendation to Council by the Executive where additional funding is required.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 By adopting this policy Council will be ensuring that should the Council wish to award grants to organisations over and above those within the Community Grants Programme, it has clear and transparent decision-making process through which to identify opportunities, allocate funds and award grants.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

There are essentially two scenarios:

- Allocation of a grant where Council has approved a fund for the provision of grants; and
- Allocation of a grant where Council has not approved a fund for the provision of grants.

In the first scenario, Executive would have the power to award grants without reference to full Council as the fund would already exist.

In the second scenario, Executive would still have the power to award grants subject to grant funding being approved by full Council.

Once awarded, the monitoring of progress and use could then be delegated to officers subject to contractual arrangements.

8. Report details:

8.1 The scale of change required to sustain the city for the future is huge and from time to time the Council will need to be agile and move at pace, working with partners in a living lab model, testing out ideas and innovations, learning (and failing) fast, identifying ways to solve problems that could be scaled up to offer sustainable city-wide solutions. This policy describes how the Council may, from time to time, award grants to organisations to fund activities and tests of change that will contribute to the achievement of priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

8.2 This General Grants policy will work alongside Exeter Community Grants Programme (2019) which aims to support community groups and organisations to address the demands that development places on the city. The Exeter Community Grants Programme is supported by the Exeter Grants Fund initially created from a combination of Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and New Homes Bonus funding, (a grant paid by central government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas).

8.3 This policy will work alongside the Councils Procurement Policy.

8.4 There is no particular funding attached to the General Grants Policy, and the establishment of this policy is not a call for bids. This policy is to ensure that should the Council wish to award grants to organisations over and above those within the Community Grants Programme, it has clear and transparent decision-making process through which to identify opportunities, allocate funds and award grants. The policy will be applied in response to an approach by a 3rd party with a request for grant funding and the funds are available to do so; or when a particular issue has been identified which is best delivered through a General Grant and the funds are available to do so.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 In adopting this policy the Council will be taking action to ensure it delivers a well-run Council.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 None. In adopting this policy the Council is reducing any risks by ensuring there is a clear and transparent process should it have the desire and the funding to award general grants.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the decision is to adopt a general policy for grant giving should the Council have the desire and funding to do so. An EQIA may become necessary should the Council ever decide to establish a particular General grants programme.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 There are no environmental impacts in adopting this policy.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 No, adopting this policy ensure good governance should the Council ever be in a position to award General Grants.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:- None

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