

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

1 March 2022

Changes to Priorities and Principles of Grant Funding

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1 That Cabinet approve the Council's Priorities and Principles of Grant Funding shown in appendix 1, with effect from 1 April 2022

3. Background

- 3.1 At the meeting of 8 March 2016, Cabinet heard the outcomes of the review of Grants and Concessions, and approved a number of recommendations including the updated Grants and Concessions Policy, and the "Priorities and Principles for Funding" to be promoted.
- 3.2 The Priorities and Principles for Funding are reviewed annually by the Grants and Concessions Panel as part of their monitoring and formulation of the "Annual Report of Grants and Concessions", and have made subsequent recommendations for amendment to Cabinet, most recently in March 2019.
- 3.3 At their meetings of October 2021 and January 2022, the Grants and Concessions Panel discussed changes to reflect current circumstances, and at the meeting of 19 January 2022 recommended changes with effect from April 2022. The proposed Priorities and Principles for Funding are attached at Appendix 1, with changes highlighted.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 In developing appropriate Priorities for grant funding for the future, the Grants and Concessions Panel recognise:
 - The positive contributions of private, voluntary and community sectors in furthering the Council's aims and objectives.
 - The value of grant giving in supporting the District's residents
 - The changes in the delivery of services for local residents, particularly in light of the Covid19 pandemic.

- Reflect the current focus of Chichester District Council, most notably the commitment to the Climate Emergency, and the Future Services Framework.
- 4.2 The Priorities and Principles of Funding for the programme should clearly articulate the expectations of the Council. The advertised 'Priorities' are the key areas of activity that the Council will support, and by omission those it will not. The 'Principles' are considerations that we expect all applicants to evidence irrespective of their proposed project. Applicants typically develop their bids over time and are expected to discuss their proposal with a Funding Adviser at a timely point before submission; early notification of any changes is helpful to inform those conversations ahead of applications to come in the next financial year.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 The current Priorities for funding have been in place for three financial years without change, and the Grants and Concessions Panel in consultation with the Funding Advisers have concluded that they continue to operate well. The Panel felt that the Priorities are bringing forward a good range of proposals across the sectors, despite the changes in circumstances around the pandemic. Accordingly, no significant change to the Priorities is proposed.
- 5.2 Noting the conclusions of the Future Services Framework and the decision to now signpost "Vision" Groups (local organisations in the Market Towns seeking to enhance the local offer) to the Discretionary Grants Pot, it was felt that the existing Priority for "Improving Places and Spaces" could thematically accommodate such applications in the future without requiring changes to the advertised Priorities.
- 5.3 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 and the Grants and Concessions Panel wish to encourage applicants who seek grant funding to demonstrate greater commitment to address their environmental impact. They propose adding a funding principle, which will require all applicants to demonstrate how they have considered their project's impact on the climate and adapted their proposal as a result or put mitigation in place. Similar requirements have been trialled recently with some smaller funding opportunities from this Council, most notably the Covid Recovery Grants in 2021 and the externally funded Enabling Grants offered by Economic Development, but there are opportunities here to be more scrutinising of wider projects seeking the support of this Council.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 In considering how best to respond to the Climate Emergency, Panel did consider introducing a specific Funding Priority. They reflected on the types of projects that might come forward, and the historic experience of the Low Carbon Chichester District Fund, and practically the parity of funding opportunity given the number of potential applicants against the annual budget available. As explained above, a principle that all applicants would need to address was felt to be more effective at highlighting the need for all organisations to both understand and reduce their environmental impacts.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1** The Budget for discretionary grants remains at £175,000 for the year ahead and is allocated in the Council's draft Budget for 2022/23. Promotion of changes to the Grants scheme for 2022/23 await the approval of both this document and the budget. It is recognised that the greater demand on the discretionary grants scheme may require more careful monitoring through the year, which the Panel can address at their meetings. Any necessary significant changes to process could be facilitated through the existing delegations from Cabinet.
- 7.2** Documented Priorities and Principles are valuable to the Funding Advisers. In conjunction with the Grants and Concessions Policy and other guidance documents, they help give clear and consistent advice to potential applicants. Encouraging greater efforts to manage or mitigate environmental impact will require Funding Advisers to consider the relative merits of actions applicants are proposing to take, and internal training from the Environmental Strategy Team is already being progressed. Funding Advisers may also be required to give advice to applicants who are unsure how best to achieve such outcomes, and where possible this will be signposting to existing, sector specific, sources of guidance.
- 7.3** In order to support smaller potential applicants, it may also be appropriate to facilitate training opportunities to help them understand what climate management options might be available to them.

8. Consultation

- 8.1** In considering changes to the Priorities and Principles, the Grants and Concessions Panel have asked for feedback from the Funding Advisers to consider the appropriateness of the current Priorities and Principles and any changes in demand for grant support, enquires that could not currently be supported, or other emerging views from the sectors they represent.
- 8.2** In considering the impact of introducing the proposed funding principle, Funding Advisers were asked to consider the likely impact for future applicants. Those organisations are not identifiable, but Funding Advisers have considered the requirements of other funders, and the requirement to demonstrate positive action to address climate change appears (in a variety of forms) in a number of funding streams. It is therefore considered that future applicants will either recognise the shared expectation across funders that this is increasingly important, or the Council should be otherwise steadfast in having this expectation.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1** Revisions to the Council's priorities for funding continues to recognise the value of the contributions of third parties, and thereby make the District a positive place to live, work and enjoy.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following? If you tick "Yes", list your impact assessment as a background paper in paragraph 13 and explain any major risks in paragraph 9		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder While the nature of future funding requests cannot be predicted, it is likely that some will have positive outcomes in this area.		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity The funding priority for improving places and spaces specifically encourages the creation of habitat, and the introduced principle ensures that all applicants will need to evidence their actions in this regard.		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact While the nature of future funding requests cannot be predicted, it is likely that some will have positive outcomes in this area.		X
Safeguarding and Early Help While the nature of future funding requests cannot be predicted, it is likely that some will have positive outcomes in this area. Any application that relates to work with young people or adults as defined by the Care Act are required to attest to their Safeguarding arrangements.		X
Health and Wellbeing While the nature of future funding requests cannot be predicted, it is likely that some will have positive outcomes in this area.		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Any monitoring that grantees are expected to undertake would not include personal information, and be limited to more general conclusions or is specific circumstances, anonymised case studies.		X

11. Appendices

11.1 Proposed Priorities and Principles for Funding with effect from April 2022

12. Background Papers

12.1 None