

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

PORTFOLIO HOLDER CLLR ALISON SMITH MBE

Previous recommendation to Cabinet

To undertake annual reviews of Community Partnership Grants and To cease one-off Community Grants from 1/04/2014.

Consultation responses from Members of the Public

- Please think carefully about removing community grants and community leisure schemes as they would be a great loss to many small groups. Would be sorry to see the Coalville 2013 type event in Coalville park go as it is a vital part of annual fundraising, and gives an increased profile locally which would otherwise be lost and receive a lot of help and support from the TIC in Ashby. Relies on 'one-off grant' as recently applied for a local elderly Community group to help them keep going since the social services stopped their funding. The present annual financial support that NWLDC gives to Ashby Museum, is fundamental to our economic well-being with nearly 70 local volunteers, none of whom costs anything and provide excellent value for our annual Grant. One off grants to voluntary and community organisations to make an important difference to local organisations and are one of the most cost effective ways of delivering services. If anything these grants should be increased, grants given assist the Council in carrying out its agreed functions and priorities and that evidence to be produced to show that the money is being spent in an effective way both in terms of cost and achievement of purpose. From the Budget Efficiency Savings proposals it would therefore seem that all communities, besides those in Coalville, Bardon, Snibston, Thringstone and Greenhill will experience a contraction in grant funding opportunities. Remarkably, there is not even a mention of an Equality Impact Assessment to evidence this as impartial.

Consultation responses from Working Groups, Unions etc

- None on this issue

Consultation responses from the Executive Consultation Meeting

- None on this issue

Consultation responses from the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party

- Councillor M B Wyatt suggested that the grants that were currently offered by the Working Party should be forsaken in favour of the larger events that were held.
- Councillor L Spence disagreed with this viewpoint, stating that the Coalville Specials grant fund should be maintained given the likelihood of the Grants Review Working Party being imminently disbanded.

Consultation responses from the Policy Development Group

- None on this issue

Officer Comments

- We do understand that Community Grants will be a loss to community groups that have benefitted in the past and we will continue to support all community groups through advice, guidance and signposting to other grant funds.
- We do expect the annual Coalville summer Community Event (Coalville TWENTY14) to continue, albeit on a potentially reduced budget, as it is funded by the Coalville Specials Expense Area.

Recommendation

In considering all the consultation responses the following recommendations are now proposed to Cabinet

- 1) To undertake annual reviews of all Community Partnership Grants to seek efficiencies and/or cash savings
- 2) To cease the one-off Community Grants fund from 1/04/2014 and disband the Grants Review Working party