

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 JUNE 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING REPORT

Recommendation(s) Including Date of Meeting and Minute Number	Actions Taken and Outcome	Completed, follow-up work required or added to Work Programme
<p><u>This Committee's meeting on 14 January 2025</u></p> <p><u>SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF GRANT FUNDING ENQUIRY</u></p> <p>Recommended to Cabinet that:</p> <p>(1) Welcomes the report on Grant Funding from/through the Council and the statements and responses from the Portfolio Holder and Officers to the Committee and further welcomes the flowchart and checklist adopted internally to identify when matters can follow an 'open call' grant arrangement and when a 'procurement';</p>	<p>Cabinet considered the recommendations of the Grant Funding Enquiry at its meeting held on 31 January 2025.</p> <p>At that meeting Cabinet had before it the following written response of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships:-</p> <p><i>"I thank the Committee for their recommendations, and these will be considered as the forthcoming Grant Policy is developed. I note the comments in respect of a voluntary sector funding day and consideration will be given to supporting or running such an event to assist the voluntary sector."</i></p> <p>Having duly considered the recommendations made by the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee together with the written</p>	<p>Completed</p>

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<p>(2) Records its thanks to all those who contributed to the enquiry into Grant Funding by/through the Council including written submissions from Headway Essex and Inclusion Ventures and the attendance by representatives from Jaywick Sands Community Forum, Ketchup Clothes and from Clacton Art Centre and their insight into the processes and value of grant opportunities for community activities;</p> <p>(3) urges Cabinet to seriously consider the following recommended actions:</p> <p>(a) the establishment of an Oversight Group of Members (such as a Portfolio Holder Working Party) for grant schemes across the Council to promote learning between schemes;</p> <p>(b) that at least some form of gap analysis of services/activity provided by community/voluntary groups be undertaken to inform future policies, even if a full analysis would be too large a project to be achieved, and that the opportunities to 'flex' grant</p>	<p>response of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships thereto:-</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the recommendations made by the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and be given consideration for inclusion in the forthcoming Grant Policy which is currently being developed.</p>	
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<p>giving to maximise the range of organisations receiving financial support in the District across the years;</p> <p>(c) Further standardised processes for different grant giving arrangements to help deliver best practice across those separate grant giving arrangements (eg around the length of time between opening invitations for applications and the closing date, common and plain language to explain the processes (that could also be made available on the internet), details of other grants received, the time between closure of application and determination/notification of outcomes, and the post grant-giving monitoring arrangements);</p> <p>(d) Adopt a consistent 'you said, we did' opportunity for organisations applying for grant funding to feed back on their experiences;</p> <p>(e) Look at organising an open day for community/voluntary groups in conjunction with other grant funding organisations (and CVST) to disseminate</p>		
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<p>information on those grant schemes and help to break down barriers to access grant funding for these community/voluntary groups;</p> <p>(4) Request that the Chairman of the Committee and the Portfolio Holder meet to consider the recommendations above and to encourage a positive response to them from Cabinet; and</p> <p>(5) Note that there are proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Great Essex and that we are awaiting confirmation from Government to whether these will proceed and over what timetable. On the basis that Government does approve the principle of LGR in Greater Essex, the Committee record that it would wish to undertake an enquiry into the implications of LGR on areas within its responsibility (including grant funding) in the work programme for 2025/26 and that this enquiry would look at possible areas where the</p>		
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<p>transition to a new unitary structure could be supported.</p> <p>This Committee's meeting on 28 January 2025:-</p> <p>CONSIDERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY 2025-2028</p> <p>"RESOLVED that –</p> <p>(a) the Crime and Disorder Strategy presented to the Committee be supported and Cabinet advised of this support for delivery by the appropriate partners including Essex Police;</p> <p>(b) the Committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) commends the Strategy authors for ensuring that the language and format and use of graphics to create what is an accessible document for most readers;(ii) urges the Cabinet to ensure that all reasonable and appropriate steps are taken to care for the health, safety and wellbeing of all staff involved in enforcement activities and community safety;	<p>Cabinet will consider the Committee's comments and recommendations at its meeting due to be held on 11 April 2025.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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<p>(iii) recognises the increasing levels of violence against the person, shoplifting, possession of weapons, personal robbery, hate crime and domestic abuse and the need for robust action to address these growing crime problems in the District;</p> <p>(iv) urges the Community Safety Partnership to adopt, as a priority, the need to educate and encourage confidence in the reporting of crime by the public and business managers to reduce significantly the current levels of under reporting by victims; and</p> <p>(v) expresses its concern for delivery of the priorities on the basis of the plans announced on the day of the meeting for all 99 PCSOs in Essex to be made redundant.”</p>		
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Recommendations monitoring for those recommendations from earlier meetings of the Committee have been previously reported to the Committee and, as such, are not repeated here as there is no further update to be provided on them.