



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

West Oxfordshire District Council

Name and date of Committee	Cabinet: Wednesday 24 March 2021
Report Number	Agenda Item No. 10
Subject	Community Revenue Grants
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Suzi Coul, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Health Email: suzi.coul@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Heather McCulloch, Healthy Communities Manager, Localities Tel: 01993 861562 Email: heather.mcculloch@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To approve Community Revenue Grant awards for 2021/22, and approve the distribution of remaining funds for 2020/21
Annex	Annex 1 : Schedule of Grants Panel recommended Community Revenue Grant awards for 2021/22.
Recommendations	(a) That the recommended Community Revenue Grant awards for 2021/22 be approved, as detailed in Annex 1 ; and (b) That the remaining £5,081 in the 2020/21 Community Revenue Grants budget, be distributed, as required, to the originally awarded bodies.
Corporate priorities	The award of Community Revenue Grants helps support voluntary and community activity and partnership actions that help to achieve progress in the policy priorities outlined in the Council Plan 2020-24.
Key Decision	Yes
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A

I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council's current Community Revenue Grant (CRG) application process was introduced following a review of revenue grants management and Cabinet's recent (January 2018) consideration of proposals for the future management of this voluntary and community sector funding. The Council's grant scheme guidance incorporates criteria that govern eligibility for funding and the further assessment of grant applications.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. Whilst the emergency has delayed this grants process getting underway compared to previous years, we recognise that the current environment is very challenging for voluntary sector organisations as they look for certainty around future funding.
- 2.2. In the face of these challenges we have prioritised our activity. We have reviewed the cohort of recent applicants to the CRG. Those more likely to rely on Council support, who have received funding for 2 years or more and with whom we have ongoing relationships were determined to be our primary focus.
- 2.3. The criteria for the scheme remain as agreed in January 2018. We created a more streamlined form, reduced some administrative burden and shortened the assessment period. The organisations of primary focus were sent details of the funding scheme. The deadline for applications was the 22nd February.
- 2.4. The assessment process has remained the same with funding applications received assessed through a corporate grants panel. The applications have first been screened for eligibility based on the qualifying criteria for the Community Revenue Grant (the criteria are set out in the back of the application form). A suitable commentary on each application was sought in each case from the linked Council service area to which the project/ activity most closely align and where the grant budget is held. This input helps test the strategic fit of the project/ activity with existing provision and helps to identify if there are any issues to take into account eg possible duplication or displacement of activity.
- 2.5. Eligible applications that meet the relevant criteria have then been tested against the assessment criteria outlined here:
 - Relevance to meeting the Council's priority aims.
 - The extent of the community benefit and impact that the project/ activity will deliver.
 - The assessment of risks (financial and other) associated with the project/ activity.
 - The application demonstrating a financial need for grant support.
 - Whether the grant represents value for money.
- 2.6. The Council's Grants Budgets are held in a range of cost centres that relate to activity in various work themes (eg: landscape initiatives; culture; and recreation). In total, the Council's overall budget for revenue grants is £188,260. The Council's grants budget has been protected over recent years through the period of financial restraint but no inflationary increase has been applied.
- 2.7. In cases where the activity is supported from one year to the next, applicants have been advised that funding levels will be capped at the highest level of the past 2 years.
- 2.8. The Grant Panel's assessment of applications has then been reviewed with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Health. Further to this review, eligible applications that have been recommended for approval are brought forward in this report for Cabinet approval.
- 2.9. At the Cabinet meeting held on 18 April 2018 it was resolved that, for 2018/19 and subsequent financial years, the relevant Cabinet Member be authorised to make any

residual grant awards subsequent to the annual application round acting in the context of the available residual grants budget, the grant scheme guidance and in consultation with appropriate officers. Therefore, following the approval of grant awards as detailed in the current report, there is appropriate delegated authority for any subsequent grant awards in 2021/22 as these arise.

- 2.10. Four organisations were awarded funding in 2020/21 but did not claim the funding as they were unable to deliver their planned projects due to the restrictions imposed as part of the emergency.

Recipient	Grant awarded 2020/21
Oxfordshire Play Association	£ 1,400
Chipping North Lido	£ 1,250
Stonesfield Preschool	£ 1,027
Eynsham Preschool	£ 1,404
Total	£ 5,081

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The recommended grant awards in this report can be financed from the Council's approved Community Revenue Grants budget. The total of the recommended grant awards is £179,368 and the available revenue grant budget for 2021/22 is £188,260. If Cabinet approves the recommended grant awards in the current report, that leaves a residual grants budget of £8,892 that could be used to support further community grant applications that come forward during financial year 2021/22.
- 3.2. The remaining £5,081 in the 2020/21 Community Revenue Grants budget, as set out in paragraph 2.10 above, will be distributed, as required, to the organisations originally awarded. Payments will be made in the current financial year. Officers will make contact to ascertain the need of each organisation and where there is no need the funds will be returned to reserves.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The award of grants is subject to the terms and conditions as outlined in the grant application form. Any funding agreement with a supported organisation will, where relevant, include provisions that are appropriate to the grant award. The Council will require the reporting of any significant changes to the service or activity that is supported through grant finance and it reserves the right to reconsider grant financing. The Council expects to receive progress reports on supported activity and will mitigate risk through relevant officer liaison with funded activities. Where subsequent financial year applications are envisaged, a progress report must be submitted in support of the new financial year grant application.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. The decisions in this report pose a limited risk to the business/Council. A number of measures are in place to limit risk. All applicants are known to the Council having received funding and delivered services as expected in the past. Officers maintain ongoing relationships with each award recipient and monitor progress throughout the award period. The process includes a compliance check of all applicants.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1. The current report incorporates the funding recommendations that result from the Grant Panel's assessment of Community Revenue Grant applications. The approval of the report's recommendations would endorse the evaluation process and allow grant awards to proceed as advised.
- 6.2. An alternative option would be to not accept the report's recommendations and propose alternative options of grant awards to voluntary and community groups. It would be prudent for any such approach to be subject to further review and advice.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1. None.

Schedule of Grants Panel recommended Community Revenue Grant awards for 2020/21

Grant Applicant	Grant Sought (£)	Proposed activity	Summary of Grants Panel review against the Community Revenue Grant criteria	
			Recommendation and notes	Recommended Grant Award (£)
Volunteer Link Up	£12,000	<p>Good Neighbour Services for West Oxfordshire Residents.</p> <p>Volunteer Link Up (VLU) is the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire. It provides a befriending service, which is a mix of telephone and face to face befriending depending on COVID restrictions. A 5 day week volunteer driver service helps people to travel to do shopping and other essential trips including medical appointments. During this year transport to vaccination appointments will continue to feature. In partnership with Age UK VLU will continue to provide support to the Good Neighbour Scheme Network, which includes schemes in West Oxfordshire. The applicant states that VLU provides opportunities to maintain and improve the mental health of both our clients and our volunteers. It helps to meet the needs to both groups by providing opportunities for social interaction and purpose, in addition to the provision of practical support. They are finding placements for volunteers who joined the Covid-19 groups that want to volunteer on a longer term basis. They plan to collaborate more with other voluntary organisations such as the Witney Land Army to develop and sustain newer volunteers. They plan to reach more people outside of their primary demographic by increasing their reach through social media platforms and targeted publicity with an additional staff resource.</p>	Award in full	£12,000
Home-Start Oxford	£5,000	<p>Because Childhood Can't Wait: Family Well-Being Groups in mid and south West Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Home-start Oxford works to support families who are isolated and vulnerable and to give children the very best start in life. The service covers the central and southern areas of the district including Witney and</p>	Award in full	£5,000

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		<p>Carterton. It supports families with very young children (under 5's). They want to utilise funding towards a Support worker who will engage with families directly and also facilitate groups as below. They plan to continue a range of online groups and add back the in-person work in due course.</p> <p>LITTLE SPLASHERS – a warm and friendly space where parents and babies under one enjoy stories, singing and sharing experiences and tips.</p> <p>PARENT'S GET TOGETHER – a popular space for peer-to-peer support discussing sleep, weaning, winter illnesses, dental health.</p> <p>PEEP GROUPS (BY-INVITATION) – vulnerable families 2 small groups of up to 6 families who needed more support to engage.</p> <p>BABY MASSAGE ONLINE – 3 expert taster sessions were oversubscribed. More short courses are planned including Sing & Sign.</p> <p>PUDDLE JUMPERS for school readiness</p> <p>Through online groups the applicant states that they have reached new families (eg families in remoter villages or affected by a disability or anxiety making IRL attendance difficult). In line with Council Plans they are keen to inclusively promote wellbeing across the whole community, so even when in-person groups reopen, they will continue some form of online offer. Very young children, new mums and families have been significantly impacted by the emergency with face to face groups such as toddler groups unable to operate and face to face health visiting limited or not possible for long periods.</p>		
Lower Windrush Valley Project	£5,000	The Lower Windrush Valley Project works in partnership with environmental organisations, mineral operators, landowners and the local community to coordinate and deliver a wide range of initiatives that:	Award in full	£5,000

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		<p>strengthen and develop the evolving landscape of the valley; protect and enhance biodiversity; improve access to the countryside; raise awareness of environmental issues.</p> <p>The landscape of the Lower Windrush Valley has been extensively modified by minerals extraction over the last 60 years. As a result of this, the Lower Windrush Valley Project was set up by Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council to deliver a range of improvements to landscape, nature conservation and public access. The Project enables improved access to greenspace and opportunities to experience nature and it gives a focused approach in the Lower Windrush Valley area.</p> <p>The Project improves and monitors biodiversity across the project area including hedgelaying, installing bird nest boxes, creating ponds and managing two 25ha nature reserves. The project promotes and provides opportunities for people to engage with nature, for example: creating circular walk guides, running a range of outdoor volunteering opportunities, improving access by securing new permissive footpaths or carrying out work on the existing network by replacing gates with stiles or installing bins and benches. There is considerable evidence that links access to greenspace and nature to wellbeing benefits. Benefits include improvements to physical health and fitness, reductions in stress and improvements in social functioning and inclusion. In addition to on-going core activities the following are key tasks and activities for 2021-22 that relate directly to objectives in the Council Plan.</p> <p>Climate Action</p>		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of two local nature reserves sites will continue with a focus on biodiversity. • Launching a volunteering recording network to improve the coverage of species recording across the valley, starting with reptiles. As well as upskilling volunteers, valuable data will be collected on species that are under-reported in the valley. This data will inform land management and be shared with the local records centre. • Series of events planned for 2021, including family pond dipping workshops and nature walks, which will improve understanding of local wildlife and awareness of environmental issues. <p>Healthy Towns and Villages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to manage and promote local Rights of Way and greenspace in the Lower Windrush Valley. • Project to identify access improvements to inform future work. This includes furniture improvements (stiles, gates etc.) and creating new routes to provide more opportunities to access greenspace. • Provide varied volunteer activities for a range of ages and abilities allowing residents to meaningfully engage with nature. <p>Vibrant District Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and install new interpretation panels for Witney Lake and Country Park to improve the site for visitors. <p>Progress on activities will be shared via the LWVP mailing list and social media platforms. We will also report on project outcomes at our annual forum meeting in November.</p>		

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Wychwood Project	£30,000	<p>Wide range of conservation and habitat restoration activities/ engagement and learning and collaborative working in the natural environment. The Council's grant is deemed invaluable in supporting the Wychwood Project's core activities and running costs. The grant gives a margin of security to innovate, both in terms of the portfolio of projects that enhance the quality of the environment in West Oxfordshire for people and wildlife, and also in terms of the Project's ability to seek other grants and sources of funding to achieve much more. No other regional conservation organisation works across a similar footprint to the Wychwood Project. It covers 120 square miles of some of the most distinctive but pressured countryside in Oxfordshire and employs a small number of expert staff.</p> <p>During 2020-21, although constrained by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Wychwood Project continued, when possible, to engage schools, volunteers and local communities in all areas of environmental restoration. Training courses for adults were run, outreach maintained with primary schools, and training NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in countryside skills commenced in partnership with Cogges Manor Farm. During the lockdown periods their suite of nature reserves across West Oxfordshire became even more valuable to local people and they have seen huge increases in numbers accessing their sites. They have been able to contribute to wellbeing, access to the benefits of nature, and played a key role in promoting healthy towns and villages.</p> <p>The Project has been working with the Council to address the climate and ecological crises by undertaking a preliminary assessment of WODC maintained countryside sites and amenity land with a view to developing a holistic, landscape-scale nature recovery strategy for West Oxfordshire.</p>	Award in full	£30,000

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		<p>Simultaneously, it began working with a number of parish councils to support strong local communities wishing to establish climate change and nature recovery projects and networks at a local level. A vanguard parish has been Eynsham, where they have helped an engaged community not only trial projects but also help spread knowledge and learning to other interested parishes in West Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Building on the Council's 'Windrush in Witney' Landscape Management Strategy the Project began scoping and developing a landscape restoration initiative which, if successful, would bring together a consortium of Councils, organisations, and community groups to restore biodiversity and enhance climate change resilience through the centre of the town. The intention was to submit a funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund but this was suspended due to the Covid crisis. When it re-opens it intends to submit a bid to employ a project officer, encourage public participation and promote skills development. This will address several key themes in the Council Plan.</p> <p>In the year ahead it plans to react to the gradual reopening of society by engaging more of West Oxfordshire's residents in its activities. Its volunteer work parties are all eager and standing by and it has waiting lists for new participants and for its skills courses.</p> <p>Developing further the nature recovery strategy for the district will be a priority for the Project in the coming year. It is close to submitting an expression of interest to a grant making foundation to create extra capacity across the district to support it and the local parishes to coordinate and refine the opportunities outlined above. The Project has an</p>		

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		<p>exciting new land acquisition in the pipeline and it is hoped that the return of this land to nature can be used as a central focus for these collaborative aspirations.</p> <p>The Project will continue with its rewilding project at Wigwell nature reserve in Charlbury. It is submitting a funding application to involve the local community in creating 'beaver analogue' dams in the stream to mimic missing keystone species.</p>		
Wild Oxfordshire	£2,000	<p>Wild Oxfordshire supports West Oxon volunteer groups and communities to improve the natural environment in their community - biodiversity advice; presentations to parish councils; support to volunteer led groups. The Wild Oxfordshire activity supports voluntary activity to improve the natural environment through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering free biodiversity advice and information regarding Neighbourhood and Community Led plans. • Giving presentations to parish councils as requested. • Offering free ecological advice and visits to volunteer led groups who are managing sites for nature. • Running a Conference/ training day for volunteer led groups. • Finding and supporting Community 'water quality' Champions. They have been recruited, trained and given materials to enable them to test multiple sites every month in West Oxfordshire. Data is fed into Earth Watch's database which gives good evidence that will lead to improved water quality. • Developed the first phase of Oxfordshire's Nature Recovery Network Plan, engaging with 40 stakeholders. 	Award in full	£2,000

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Thomas Gifford Trust	£6,106	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant funding sought will assist the centre's operations and complement the fundraising needed to meet running costs in helping to bridge the funding gap. The centres main aim is to encourage people in the community, but especially pupils who have missed actual PE lessons at school and sporting club activities, to keep active. During lockdown, they are doing this through a 'Keep Charlbury active' initiative, where maps of walks in the local area are provided which encourage families and all members in the community to run/walk/cycle and record their mileage with the aim of collectively 'walking around the coast of Britain'. <p>They are also expanding online exercise classes on offer to include 'Toddler Gym' for youngsters, gentle exercise, and toning classes for elderly people.</p> <p>When the centre reopens they plan to return to the health and wellbeing timetable as closely as possible to encourage a 'Return to Sport' in line with government guidelines, adaptations will be made to any classes or group activities as necessary.</p> <p>To encourage a strong local community, the aspiration is to reopen the café and library to enable social gatherings especially for elderly people and to restart coffee mornings, scrabble, film, book and art clubs (in line with government guidelines).</p> <p>The aim is to achieve a return to sport and physical activity for all members in the community and provide a hub for social connections especially for those who have felt isolated during this pandemic.</p>	Award in full	£5,300

Grant Applicant	Grant Sought (£)	Proposed activity	Summary of Grants Panel review against the Community Revenue Grant criteria	
			Recommendation and notes	Recommended Grant Award (£)
Chipping Norton Theatre	£25,900	<p>The grant from WODC if given will provide the theatre with some certainty and ability to plan and to offer a varied and more accessible programme for visitors and for the local community. The grant, if requested, demonstrates to other charitable funders a confidence in the creativity and sustainability of this local theatre.</p> <p>The theatre plans a gradual resumption of the normal programme, led by a number of projects that are more suited for delivery in a socially distanced COVID-secure manner. Community engagement and accessibility underpins the theatre's direction for the next year along with continuing to focus on its core income-generating activity (pantomime etc).</p> <p>There is a considered ladder of engagement to reach new harder to reach groups (supported by S106 contributions). This builds on the theatre's initiative with Cottsway, St Mary's Church and Chippy Larder to print and distribute lantern packs to over 300 families. The ladder of engagement includes summer scheme activities and a Shadow Puppet workshops, working alongside Cottsway and Sovereign social housing providers. The postponed Transitions project and Play in a Day with Chipping Norton School is planned for summer. Targetted engagement is designed to build on opportunities for young people in the Youth Theatre programme. Theatre staff are linking up with Chippy Larder to promote access with subsidised tickets.</p> <p>The theatre is building on and continuing its work with community partners such as St Mary's church, Chippy Larder, local schools and social housing providers and charities. The theatre plays a key part in the regular meetings of Chipping Norton Creative engaging with a range of partners across the community for collaborative and partnership working.</p>	Award in full	£25,900

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		<p>The application links this to the Council's Strong Local Communities priority.</p> <p>There will be a resumption of adult activities such as creative writing, adult drama and Dance 50 movement classes and a new online project for the Chippy Singers choral group and Youth theatre classes from Easter 2021. An older people's project includes work with the local museum and local people towards an outdoor exhibition featuring Chipping Norton past.</p> <p>Programme plans to include socially distanced cinema screenings and live performances as soon as permissible, building towards the annual pantomime, three outdoor gallery exhibitions, including partnerships with CN Arts, Oxfordshire Artweeks and Chipping Norton Museum; two weeks of outdoor cinema in a variety of local venues, outdoor theatre and opera performances and an escape room activity.</p> <p>Working with Chipping Norton Literary Festival, the theatre will run an online creative writing competition. The application links this to the Council's Healthy Towns & Villages priority.</p> <p>Whilst initially focusing on local audiences, the programme will continue to bring visitors from outside the town and district to enjoy socially distanced, COVID secure activities. The application links this to the Council's Vibrant District Economy agenda.</p> <p>The theatre will undertake a review of environmental impact in conjunction with the environmental charity Julie's Bicycle. This links to the Council's Climate Action priority.</p>		

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		The theatre will continue to work with a significant number of volunteers, especially as ushers and event organisers.		
Community First Oxfordshire	£11,800.00	<p>Undertake a range of activities which will contribute to Council Plan priorities Strong Local Communities and Climate Action with a focus on enhancing community resilience post-Covid:</p> <p>Strong Local Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Town and Parish Council's to undertake Community Reviews – assessing impact of the pandemic on their residents and planning for improved local resilience. Consider through this how to build on activity already underway eg Mutual Aid Groups and other community projects and activities to aid a positive Covid-19 recovery. - Continue to Support community shops with retail support and advice to enable continued viability in light of the impacts of Covid and the recession. - Continue to support a strong community transport sector through direct support to WODC schemes and wider partnership working. <p>Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work in partnership with Community Action Group Oxfordshire to promote local action towards mitigating the climate emergency. Continue to support a strong community transport sector through direct support to WODC schemes and wider partnership working. <p>The activity proposed will make a valuable contribution towards delivering Council Plan priorities 'Strong Local Communities' and 'Climate Action' with a particular focus on enabling recovery from Covid-19 which is consistent with meeting the aims of the West Oxfordshire Covid-19 Recovery Plan.</p>	Award in full	£11,800.00

Grant Applicant	Grant Sought (£)	Proposed activity	Summary of Grants Panel review against the Community Revenue Grant criteria	
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Cotswold Conservation Board	£10,300.00	<p>Planning activity for 2021/22 and how it meets WODC Council Plan themes:</p> <p>Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting undertaken by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens, specific projects tbc. • Continuation of the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands project, with sites within WODC. Restoring wildflower meadows. • Write and publish the Nature Recovery Plan for the Cotswolds National Landscape, to include the area of WODC. • Update our Climate Change Strategy and our Renewable Energy Position Statement for the Cotswolds National Landscape. • Work with LPA partners (inc. WODC) in their formulation and delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, aligned with and delivering Cotswolds National Landscape priorities. • Be an active partner in Thames Water’s ‘Smarter Catchment’ programme, focusing on the River Evenlode (inc. within WODC). <p>Healthy Towns and Villages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East District of the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens cover the WODC area. Within this District there are over 50 active volunteers undertaking such tasks as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular work parties to improve access and trails (including stiles/ gates, etc.), e.g. along the River Windrush. ○ Free guided walks for members of the public (local and visitors) – in the region of 50 walks in the year. <p>A Vibrant District Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the ‘Caring for the Cotswolds’ grant programme (funded by our Visitor Giving scheme) – open to individuals, 	Award in full	£10,300.00

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			Recommendation and notes	Recommended Grant Award (£)
		<p>communities, parish councils, charities and small business to apply for funding. Likely to be in the region of £20,000 of grant-aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working closely with farmers and land managers through a 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' funding programme (as part of the Agricultural Transition Plan). <p>Strong Local Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlbury is one of the Gateway towns included within our Rural Payments Agency funded programme. Promotion for this will commence in April and will include interpretation boards; walking routes and is a key part of a cross-Cotswolds cycle route from Tewkesbury to Kidlington. So WODC has a significant place in this project. 		
Age UK	£10,000	<p>Maintenance of community development work in West Oxfordshire which complements the County Council funded Community Information Network. Age UK seeks a grant of £10,000 to part fund the direct, and indirect, costs of a Community Development Worker, to sustain and further develop the successful West Oxfordshire community development model. The work aims to connect people to services and support, activities and opportunities that enable them to maintain their independence, stay healthy and feel less lonely.</p> <p>The WODC grant helps build a rich menu of activities and opportunities to connect people to in West Oxfordshire. The application outlines that since March 2020 Age UK have adapted their offer to take account of the pandemic restrictions. Available to all residents in West Oxfordshire Age UK have ensured that they know of and can access help and support through:</p> <p>Telephone Support Service (TSS)</p>	Award in full	£10,000

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		<p>Virtual Zoom Groups: Virtual courses: with A&W College Collected and returned 120 blankets Winter wellbeing pack of information - smile in an envelope Over 100 'Bags of Sunshine' 240 Festive Friends Doorstep wellbeing checks etc In addition to supporting existing activities (listed in the activity report) Age UK will be offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual and 'in-person' regular activities and training sessions that will bring people together over a shared interest in the digital world. • Bespoke 1-2-1 IT training sessions to support local older people and groups to become more confident • A suite of 'how to guides' that can be used both by individuals and local groups • Support 150 older people to report that they feel confident to connect with online council/health services. 		
My Life My Choice	£3,356	<p>Activity of benefit to members of our community with a learning disability. The activity provides an advocacy service and had continued virtually throughout the pandemic, this service is distinct from other service providers. Funding needed to continue to run a self-advocacy group for 63 members in Witney, Carterton and the surrounding area. The support work includes provision of packs delivered to doorstep for regular virtual social contact and access to new activities, the hope is to return to face to face activities as soon as possible but continued support is provided during extremely difficult times.</p>	Award in full	£3,356

Grant Applicant	Grant Sought (£)	Proposed activity	Summary of Grants Panel review against the Community Revenue Grant criteria	
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Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire	£58,700	<p>In 2021/22 the applicant plans to continue to provide comprehensive, quality advice services across West Oxfordshire. They hope to reintroduce face to face services, as well as maintain the phone and web chat services currently in high demand. In addition, they plan to remodel services to enable continued home working for a proportion of staff and volunteers, reducing the impact on the environment by reducing journeys, and improving the quality of life for those that are suited to home working. They intend to remodel services to include video appointments, connecting to community based services where potential clients are likely to be attending.</p> <p>They state that demand for money and debt advice will remain high, and that this will increase as the financial impact of the pandemic is realised. Currently some actions such as evictions are restricted, but they expect to see a rise in the need for housing advice once these restrictions are lifted. They are also awaiting the outcome of significant numbers of benefit claims that have not yet been determined, and expect that challenges on decisions for employment and support allowance, disability living allowance and universal credit are likely to require challenge.</p> <p>They expect to deal with more people in 21/22 than in 20/21, which already looks set to exceed the numbers dealt with in 2019/20.</p> <p>Their work is linked to supporting local residents; helping build a stronger local community; which in turn supports the local economy. They adapt their work to ensure they reach out to as many residents as possible as well as working closely with other partner organisations to ensure all the needs of residents are addressed and catered for</p> <p>They will continue to relate their services to meet the Council Plan and its aims and objectives of: Building Strong Local Communities, Supporting people with their housing needs; supporting residents to resolve their</p>	Award in full	£58,700

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		<p>issues which impact their lives thus improving the their health and wellbeing. Although they aim to reintroduce some face to face services they will also continue delivering their services via telephone and web chat; which is currently still in high demand</p> <p>CAWO is a holistic service provision and the only organisation in the district that delivers this rounded support. It is a well-established and trusted organisation that supports its residents and in doing so, supports the local economy.</p>		

Overall Community Revenue Grant Applications Financial Summary	Total of recommended grants	£179,368
	Comparison - total Community Revenue Grants Budget	£188,260
	Grants budget remaining if all recommended grants approved	£8,892