

Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

R P Cooke	-	Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	-	Environment Portfolio
J Hood	-	Community Portfolio
R Kenney	-	Deputy Leader and Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	-	Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	-	Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio
A F Reid	-	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

Officers in attendance:

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
C Forrester	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Resources
G Stott	-	Deputy Chief Executive - Place
J Aupers	-	Head of Transformation and Assurance
J Presland	-	Head of Operations
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance
A Nevin	-	Head of Wellbeing
J Holmes	-	Development Management Manager
A Yendole	-	Planning Policy Manager
W Conaghan	-	Press and Communication Manager
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer

## **CAB62 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2025 as published on 24 January 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

## **CAB63 Funding for Voluntary Sector Organisations**

Considered a report:-

- Seeking approval of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Grant Policy which detailed how and what support would be given by the Council to voluntary sector organisations and;
- Requesting that Cabinet agree the grants currently given to voluntary sector organisations be extended by a 12 month period commencing from April 2025. This would allow time for the new policy to be agreed and the strategic framework that would guide applications to be set.

The Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio, introduced the report noting the detail as set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 before sharing several examples of individuals and groups who had been assisted by said grants. Councillor Hood concluded her comments by recommending that the proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved.

Councillor A N Pearce stated the importance of recognising the support the Council continued to give to the wider community, particularly its most vulnerable residents.

Councillor A F Reid encouraged all eligible groups to apply for the assistance available, as detailed in the report.

Continuing, Councillor Hood reiterated the plethora of talented individuals within the Borough who had benefited from such funding, and was pleased to report that Parish and Town Councils could also apply for grants.

The Cabinet subsequently voted on the recommendation, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the proposals of the Cabinet Member, Community Portfolio be approved as follows:

That:-

- (a) the VCSE Grant Policy be approved and the element of the policy which delegated the decision on allocation of funding to the Head of Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community be noted;
- (b) the spend of £130,250 which would enable the extension of the current grant agreements until 31 March 2026 be approved;
- (c) authority to approve grants following review from a panel of officers and elected members be delegated to the Head of Wellbeing and elected Portfolio holder.

CHAIR