



Annual Report 2020/21

- Area Wide Grant (AWG)
- Member Awarded Funding (MAF)
- Veteran Support Service Pilot
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award (QPJA)

Foreword

As the appointed Executive Member for Public Health and Equality of Opportunity, and as the portfolio holder for Grants, I am proud to be presenting the Grants annual report 2021 / 22 for the Area Wide Grant (AWG), and Member Awarded Funding (MAF). In addition, this year includes a review of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Award (QPJA). This was a one off funding for the 70th anniversary of the Queens accession to support communities to come together in celebration.

Over the years a vast array of local community projects have been funded from lunch clubs for older people to tree planting projects to reduce the impact of climate change. The celebrations that took place this year to commemorate the queen's reign were embraced by our communities and street parties, fetes and tea parties were in abundance across the region.

On a formal basis the annual report provides an account of the grant expenditure, acting to demonstrate that the schemes are compliant to the published principles and that the Council's constitution and legal obligations are upheld.

Finally, if you are a voluntary, community, social enterprise or a Town and Parish Council and you are considering and are at the initial early stages of planning a project, do feel welcome to approach any of your Ward members to discuss how it could be potentially supported by us.

Signed:



Cllr Franklin Owusu-Antwi, December 2021
Executive Member for Public Health and Equality of Opportunity

Background

1 The Area Wide Grant (AWG) scheme specifically supports projects providing benefits across a significantly wider geographic area than Member Awarded Funding (MAF) which enables Members to support organisations in their local ward area. The purpose of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award (QPJA) was to support commemorative events being held in South Gloucestershire during the 70th Anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty The Queen; Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

2 Town and Parish councils (TPC), and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations are eligible to apply for these schemes. In support of this, a number of basic principles have been agreed for the [AWG](#) and [MAF](#) schemes to provide a transparent, accountable, consistent and legal process to be adhered to.

3 Requirements for the QPJA were aligned to existing policies and procedures. A specific prerequisite was for applicants to confirm that appropriate licences, notices and insurances would be in place. These ranged from Street Closure Orders to Temporary Event Notices. In line with the Council's policy, the fee for street closures was waived as this was an event of national significance.

4 The Council Plan 2020/2024 was applicable over the course of the year and has been featured accordingly.

5 As previously agreed, AWG budget was £70,000, MAF budget £220,252 and at the Council meeting in February 2021, a one-off QPJA amount of £50,000 was allocated. Taking this investment into account, the total grant budget was £340,252 for the year and 100% was awarded (*All figures in this report are rounded to the nearest £*).

6 At financial year end (March 2021), a one-off decision was taken to carry forward the remaining balance of the Member Awarded Funding (MAF) scheme. This took into consideration the prevailing national health Covid restrictions that severely limited the ability of the sector to function and to engage with the grant scheme.

7 The impact of the Pandemic was greatly felt by the VCSE sector. Shielding and Lockdowns restricted community activity and many organisations and projects had to pause.

Analysis of Grant funding

8 The AWG budget of £70,000 was applied over two funding rounds in 2021/2022, as originally determined and in accordance with the principles of the scheme.

The voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector is more likely to receive an AWG award due to its ability to work across a wider geographic area than Town and Parish Councils (TPC) whose spend is restricted to the civil parish boundary. Four applications were received from three different Town and Parish Councils.

Key findings for the year included:

- 61 AWG applications were received
- 53 AWG awards were made
- 100% of the AWG budget was committed
- 100% of the awards were made to VCSE organisations
- AWG supported projects with total project costs of £367,542
- AWG awards met 48% of the amount requested by applicants.

9 MAF data was assessed in accordance with the available amount £220,252.

Key findings for the year included:

- 149 MAF applications were received
- 145 MAF applications were successful
- 121 VCSE, 17 TPC and 6 additional public service projects were supported
- 100% of the MAF budget was committed
- 83% of the awards were made to VCSE organisations; 12% to T/PC and 0.04% to public services
- 41% of successful applications supported residents from our protected characteristic communities
- MAF supported projects totalling a value of £744,241 and awards met 79% of the amount requested
- The largest award to a single project was £17,917 towards the Mission Costs of Great Western Air Ambulance.

10 QPJA data was analysed to correspond with the one-off investment of £50,000; findings included:

- 33 applications were received
- 19 applications were from VCSE organisations and 14 from TPC
- Amounts requested ranged from £500 to £7,950
- 100% of the QPJA budget was committed.

11 Funding was requested for items such as publicity, vintage decorations, refreshments, insurance, venue hire, and entertainment costs such as vintage bands and choirs.

- A number of organisations applied to the AWG, MAF and QPJA programmes on more than one occasion, for different or the same projects
- 1 organisation applied to all three
- 21 organisations applied to both the MAF and AWG schemes
- 6 received MAF and AWG awards for the same project
- 11 received MAF and AWG for different projects
- 14 organisations, including 2 TPC, received MAF awards for more than one project.

12 Total project costs were stated as £1,246,469 (AWG, £367,542, MAF, £744,241 and QPJA £134,686) which implies that for every £1 council investment, an additional £3.70 was generated from other sources.

Supporting the Council Plan 2020/24

13 The Council Plan 2020/24 outlines the Council's priorities which underpin the direction of the Council.

14 Combining the grant awards from MAF and AWG schemes for 2021/22, applicant organisations provided projects and services to their local communities which directly contribute to, and invest into, the Council's priorities as shown below:

- Priority 1 – Creating the best start in life for our children and young people, £82,112; relative investment value 28%
- Priority 2 – Identifying and supporting those most in need and helping people to help themselves, £75,448; relative investment value 26%
- Priority 3 – Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth, £79,178; relative investment value 27%

Additionally, Organisations were asked if their projects met the Council Challenges of Addressing the Climate Emergency and Closing the inequality gap. 28% and 46% of projects met these challenges respectively.

Monitoring of awards made in 2020/21

15 In accordance with the principles determined by the Communities Committee, projects and services supported by Area Wide Grants (AWG) and Member Awarded Funding (MAF) are monitored on an annual basis and results are documented retrospectively in this annual report.

16 The monitoring return rate is for 2020/21. The completion rate was:

- 93% for Area Wide Grants (AWG)
- 91% Member Awarded Funding (MAF)

AWG monitoring surveys returned

- 93% Completed and returned
- 72% Projects completed as planned
- 79% Projects completed within 12 months
- 83% Projects spent the full amount as planned

MAF monitoring surveys returned

- 91% Completed and returned
- 90% Projects completed as planned
- 86% Projects completed within 12 months
- 88% Projects spent the full amount as planned

17 When organisations were asked to report if their projects had been completed within 12 months in accordance with the grant terms and conditions, 79% of AWG and 86% of MAF applicants answered positively. Analysis of the reasons for noncompletion within this time frame included delays in permissions and building works as well as the impact of the pandemic and lockdowns. However, all projects were followed up and extensions to funding

terms and conditions were agreed as appropriate to ensure that the award was spent in full. Project implementation was affected by the Pandemic and extensions were granted as necessary.

18 The value of volunteers in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) is significant as organisations rely on volunteering hours to help run services and activities. A total of 1,622 volunteers participated in the provision of funded projects. Those organisations reporting not to have used volunteers for project delivery engaged professionals due to the nature of the work.

19 The approximate number of South Gloucestershire residents benefiting from funded services and activities in both schemes was 197,850, which equates to an investment by the Council of almost £1.09 per project beneficiary.

Equalities

20 The Grants service is committed to ensuring that it is operating fairly and equitably in all areas of delivery.

21 Equality monitoring is undertaken to ensure that the service is accessible and open to all organisations. Likewise, organisations are required to demonstrate in their application their commitment to the provision of equal opportunity in their project, and this is ratified by Members in their authorisation. A comprehensive list of awards supporting our protected characteristic communities can be viewed in *Appendix 3* to this report.

22 To ensure equality commitments are upheld, organisations are asked to complete an equalities survey. Questions are designed to ascertain if an organisation's primary function is to support individuals on the basis of their protected characteristic.

23 Organisations are also asked about the composition of their management committee and whether or not the majority identify with one or more of the nine protected characteristics to establish representation.

Key findings include

- 53% of funded organisations have 'No specific organisational objectives regarding protected characteristics'
- After that the most often ticked characteristics are Disability 21% and Age 18%.

24 The Equalities table in *Appendix 2* to this report illustrates responses received. Applicants could select more than one characteristic, to take account of people with intersectional identities.

The Local Government Transparency Code

25 As part of South Gloucestershire Council's obligations under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, all grant decisions and payments have been published since 2014. The data includes previous funds of Community Grants, Positive Activities Subsidy (PAS) and New Homes Bonus (NHB); and current schemes of Three Year Grants, Financial

Inclusion Service (welfare benefit and debt advice), MAF and AWG. Payments can be viewed on the [Open Data webpage](#) accessible from the [MAF webpage](#) and the [AWG webpage](#).

Conclusion

26 The Council's grant programmes continue to benefit South Gloucestershire communities in a number of ways:



The MAF scheme has enabled Members to support organisations working in their local wards, to meet local community needs often funding preventative projects



The responsiveness of the scheme has allowed Members and residents to see direct benefits to residents in their communities within a short timeframe



The grant schemes have highlighted the importance and extent of charitable and community work taking place in South Gloucestershire communities, making it a great place to live and work



The grant schemes have supported cross-party and interparty collaborations to pool funding to support projects requiring greater investment



Under the MAF scheme Members have adopted innovative processes to administer their funding within the set principles and processes of the programme which has enabled organisations to access funds when they need it



Organisations supporting communities with protected characteristics benefited from the AWG scheme ensuring that they were not excluded on the grounds of geographical area or protected characteristic



Grant funding has a positive impact on the Council's priorities.

For any queries regarding this report or for further information please contact the grants helpline on 01454 865865 or email grants@southglos.gov.uk