REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

Appointments to the Grants Panel 2026/27

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Craig Warhurst, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Portfolio Holder Consulted		
Relevant Assistant Director		Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services
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Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		N/A
Relevant Council Priority		Supported Governance;
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-

Councillors Sharon Harvey, David Meredith, Nic Pioli, Jane Spilsbury and Monica Stringfellow be appointed to serve on the Grants Panel in 2026/27.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This report details arrangements for the appointment of Members to the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel to serve for the remainder of the 2026/27 municipal year.

2.2 Members are invited to consider approving these appointments.

3. OPERATIONAL DETAILS

3.1 At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2nd September 2025, Members considered a report on the subject of the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grants scheme.

3.2 As part of this item, Members agreed to introduce a Grants Panel, which would be responsible for considering and scoring applications received from VCS organisations for major grant funding. The terms of reference for the panel were approved as part of that report and are attached as an appendix to this report.

3.3 The Grants Panel met to consider applications for funding from VCS Groups in in the 2025/26 municipal year. Decisions taken that year related to grant funding for VCS groups in the 2026/27 financial year.

3.4 The Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel does not have any decision-making powers. Instead, it makes recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval. Recommendations made by the Grants Panel in the 2026/27 municipal year will shape grant funding for VCS organisations in the 2027/28 financial year.

3.5 There is now a need for Members to be appointed to serve on the Grants Panel for the remainder of the 2026/27 municipal year.

3.6 The Grants Panel operates as an Executive Advisory Panel and it is the Executive Committee's responsibility to determine the final membership of the panel. As with other Executive Advisory Panels at the Council, Members from different political groups may serve on the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel, with nominations proposed by political party group leaders.

3.7 In accordance with the agreed terms of reference for the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel, members appointed to the panel may not be members of the Executive Committee. In addition, the Chair must be a Councillor who is not a member of the controlling group. These arrangements are designed to ensure independence and transparency in the process for consideration of grant applications by the panel.

3.8 It should be noted that any member appointed to the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel will be required to undertake training before they can serve at a meeting of the panel.

3.9 Following consultation with group leaders, it is proposed that the members of the Grants Panel should elect a Chair from amongst their membership at the first meeting of the Panel held during the 2026/27 municipal year.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 At the Council meeting held on 15th September 2025, Members agreed to allocate funding of £175,000 per annum over the three-year period starting in 2026/27 to the Council's VCS grants scheme. Of this amount, up to £75,000 will be for a Financial Advice Grant. The remaining £100,000 will be for a grants scheme to which the VCS can apply and will be considered by a Grants Panel.

4.2 This round of meetings of the Grants Panel, in 2026/27, will relate to the second year of this three-year funding round.

4.3 The Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel will be scoring applications received from VCS organisations for funding from the Council. Members of the Grants Panel will need to be assured that all recommendations for funding comply with the Council's requirements under the scheme and will achieve best value for the Council.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel is an Executive Advisory Panel it does not form part of the Council's political balance.

5.2 The Executive Committee has the authority to determine appointments to Executive Advisory Panels.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report for Local Government Reorganisation or devolution.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 The Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel will need to ensure that, through the recommendations they make to the Executive Committee, best value is achieved for the authority and the residents that the Council serves. This will help to support the organisational principle of financial sustainability.

Climate Change Implications

6.3 There are no specific implications for climate change.

Community Impact

6.4 There are no specific implications for community safety, health and wellbeing.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.5 There are no specific equalities and diversity implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There is a significant risk that the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel will not be able to fulfil its duties if Members are not appointed to serve on the panel in a timely manner.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1

Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Panel – Terms of Reference (approved at the Executive Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2025).

Background Papers

Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Scheme 2026/27 to 2028/29, report to the Executive Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2025: Executive Committee agenda - 2nd September 2025

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