



Review of Community Grants

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
July 2022

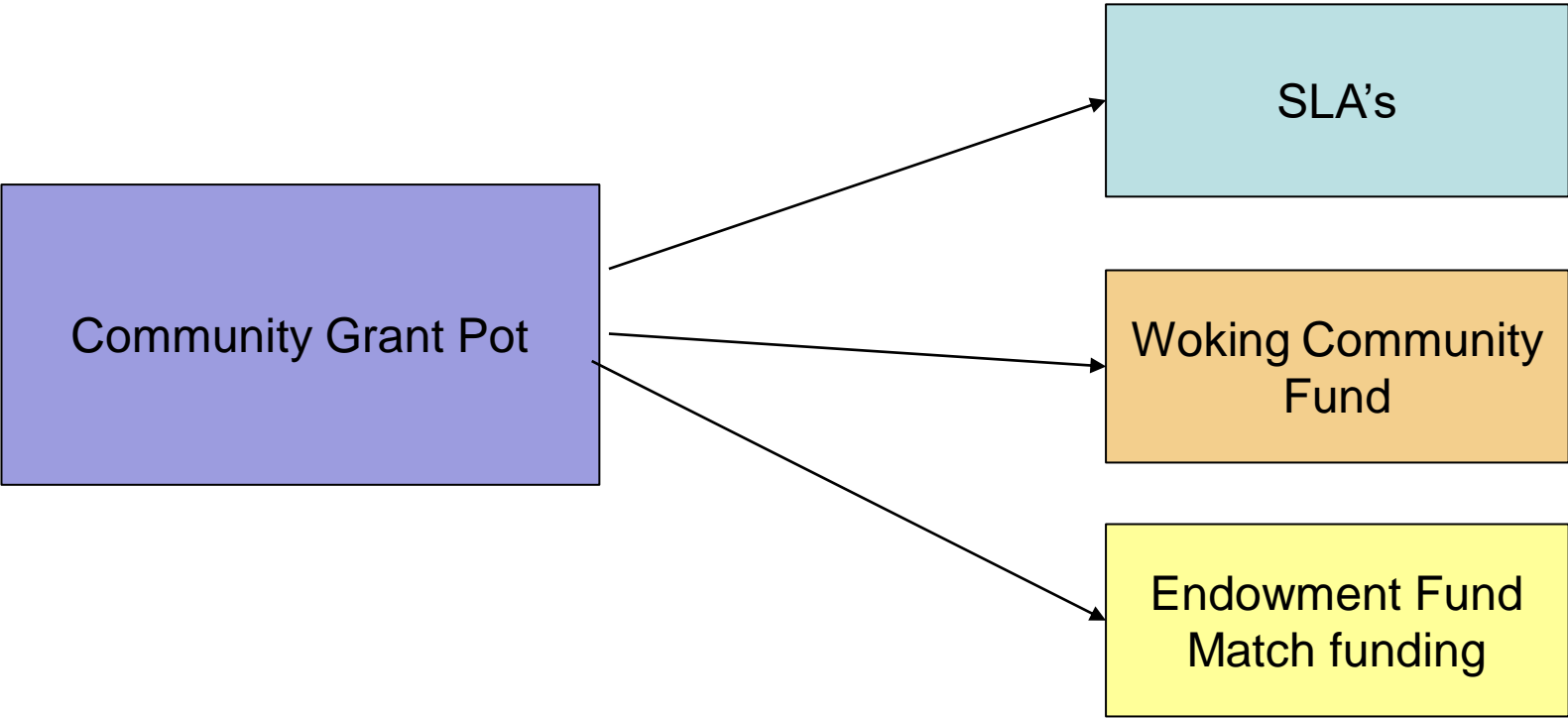
Why adopt a new approach?

- Improve operational efficiency and effectiveness
- Align grant giving with the Council's strategic priorities
- Secure annual funding for essential groups (SLAs)
- Partner with the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) who is a trusted expert in this field
- Combine local funding streams
- Incentivise external contributions from the private sector
- Report annually on the Council's overall support to the voluntary sector

New Approach

Current

Proposed



Service Level Agreements

- SLAs provided for community groups for essential Council-requested services
- All groups have regular Officer engagement:
 - Citizen's Advice Woking
 - Woking Community Transport
 - York Road Project
 - Woking People of Faith (community cohesion)
 - Woking Asian Business Forum (to run ARCH Centre)

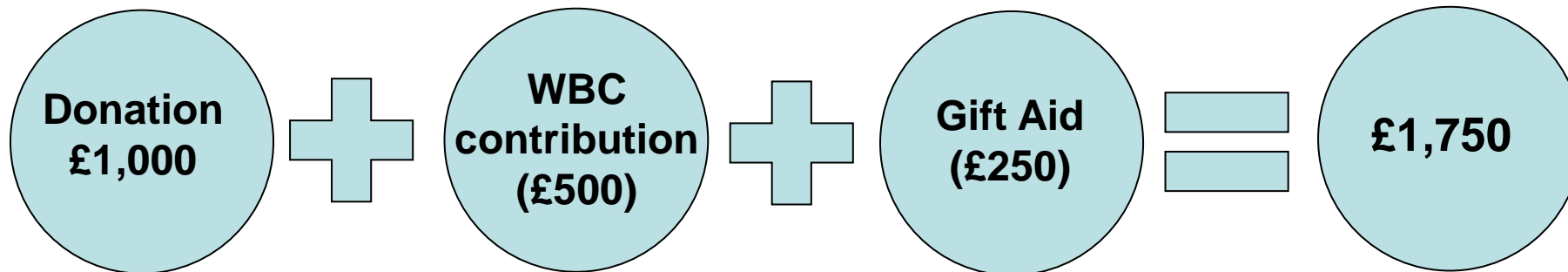


Woking Community Fund

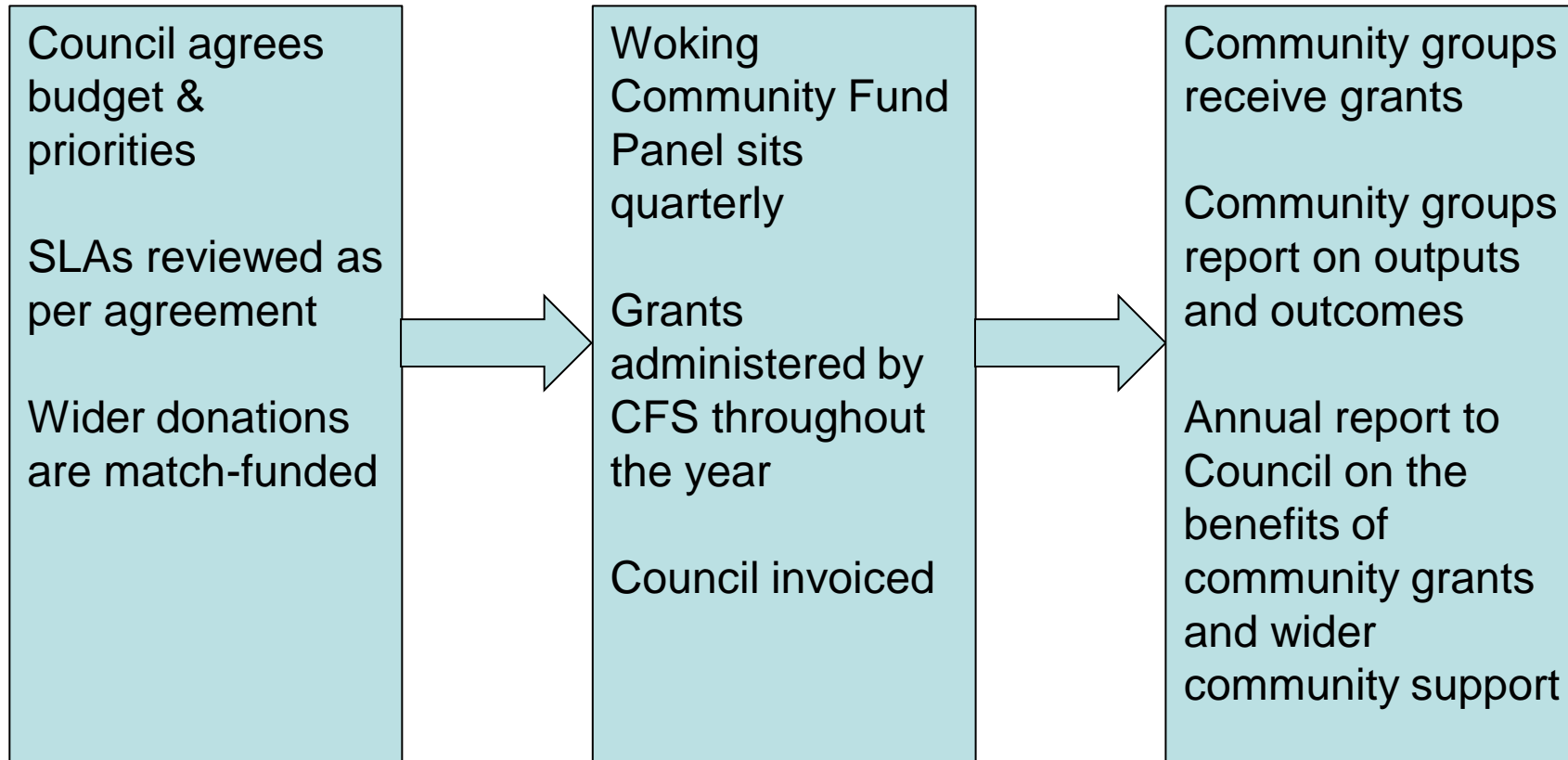
- Community groups can apply to the Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) throughout the year
- One expression of interest can access multiple funds
- Access to wider funding advice and support
- Lead Member and Officer sit on Panel
- Panel has an independent Chair
- CFS invoice the Council when grants are awarded

Endowment Fund

- The Woking Community Foundation exists currently as an endowment fund
- The Council will match-fund (50%) any new donations to the endowment from the private sector
- This incentivises growth and sustainability, example:



Process Overview



Transparency and Democratic Process

- The Portfolio Holder and Lead Officer will sit and vote on the Woking Community Fund decision making Panel
- Criteria will be set based on Council adopted policies
- Panel will be Chaired by an independent Chair, recruited by CFS
- All grant awards from the CFS are in the public domain
- The Council will receive an annual update that reports on the support for the voluntary and community sector through grants and wider discretionary benefits
- The partnership with CFS will be clearly documented through a Service Level Agreement, including clear expectations

Consultation

- Community groups often request secure funding through SLAs
- Groups regularly feed back that multiple annual grant applications are resource intensive for them
- Volunteer Working, Council Officers and Community Foundation for Surrey were consulted in detail in preparation for Executive Report

Officers will ensure grant recipients are well informed of the new process through written and verbal communications

Thank you

Questions & discussion