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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>17 NOVEMBER 2022</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT SCHEME</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: HS07</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 That the Committee accepts the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in section 4 of this report.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

2.1 To inform the Committee of the applications for Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme (CEPGS) funding received by the Council.

2.2 To seek approval to award grants in line with the recommendations of the Committee's appointed Assessment Panel, established to consider such applications.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

3.1 The CEPGS is continuing to operate according to processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to the Committee.

3.2 Two new capital grant applications were reviewed by the Assessment Panel, requesting £31,581.29 against a remaining unallocated budget of £39,131.98 which is available until end of March 2023

3.3 The projects recommended to receive grant support are as follows:

- a) Up to £6,581.29 to Etwall Parish Council towards the purchase and installation of four floodlights for the bowling green used by Etwall Bowls Club. This represents 50% of the total capital project costs.
- b) Up to £25,000 to Melbourne Rugby Football Club towards the construction of a steel portal framed building sited next to the rugby pitches to house equipment and toilet facilities. This represents 32% of the total capital project costs.

## 4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The CEPGS offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to support projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector (VCS). A sum of £250,000 has been allocated to the scheme since October 2019, to enable grants to be made in support of applications received during the current funding cycle.
- 4.2 An Assessment Panel comprising three Councillors, with support from the Community Partnership Officer, met on 18 October 2022 to consider the applications that had been submitted. The Panel is Chaired by the Chairman of the Housing and Community Services Committee.
- 4.3 The submitted applications were assessed against the published set criteria and recommendations about grant distribution are proposed for approval by the Committee.

### **Applications**

- 4.4 The following applications were received and considered for capital funding:
- a) Etwall Parish Council (*grant applied for £6,581.29, 50% of a total project cost of £13,162.57*) as a contribution towards the purchase and installation of four floodlights on the bowling green used by Etwall Bowls Club. The Parish Council is a trustee of the King George V Playing Fields Trust in Etwall and holds the trust in perpetuity for the physical recreation and wellbeing of the local community
- b) Melbourne Rugby Football Club (*grant applied for £25,000, 32% of a total capital project cost of £77,342.19*) as a contribution towards the construction of a steel portal framed building sited next to the rugby pitches to house equipment and toilet facilities. This is the maximum grant that can be applied for under the CEPGS.

### **Assessment Panel**

- 4.5 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel met on 18 October 2022 to review the applications against the questions and criteria previously agreed. The criteria included links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk, and commitment to equal opportunities.
- 4.6 Prior to making a recommendation, the Assessment Panel considered the Scheme's current budget position regarding capital monies. The Scheme had a remaining unallocated budget of £39,131.98 prior to the allocation of any grants. It was, therefore, identified that there was sufficient funding for the recommended grants to be covered in full, should they meet the Scheme's criteria.

### **Assessment Panel Recommendations**

- 4.7 The Assessment Panel's recommendation for the distribution of grants is as follows:
- **Up to £6,581.29 (a maximum of 50% of the project capital costs) to Etwall Parish Council** as a contribution towards the purchase and installation of four floodlights for the bowling green used by Etwall Bowls Club.

- **Up to £25,000 (the maximum grant amount that can be awarded under the CEPGS) to Melbourne Rugby Football Club** as a contribution towards the construction of a steel portal framed building sited next to the rugby pitches to house equipment and toilet facilities.

4.8 All grant offers for building-based projects are required to evidence appropriate planning / building control permissions

4.9 VAT on project costs are only covered where the organisation is not VAT registered and cannot reclaim VAT paid.

4.10 All offers made are subject to the current published standard terms and conditions.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 The award of grants falls within the remaining unallocated CEPGS budget of £39,131.98 The total of the grants recommended for award is up to £31,581.29 allowing a balance of £7,550.69 (3% of initial allocation of funds) to be allocated prior to March 2023.

5.2 It is anticipated that all remaining funds will be recommended for allocation at the next grant panel, date to be identified, during 2022/2023.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

### **Employment Implications**

6.1 There are no employment implications arising from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Corporate Plan Implications**

6.3 The scheme contributes to all the priority areas in the Council's Corporate Plan, with individual projects contributing to Our Environment, Our People and Our Future through delivering inward investment, independent living, leisure, and cultural activity and focus on the community as residents and customers.

6.4 The projects supported will also address outcomes that contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy themes of Children and Young People, Healthier Communities, Safer and Stronger Communities, as well as Sustainable Development.

### **Risk Impact**

6.5 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel assesses all applications against set criteria which includes identifying potential risks associated with each project and the management of those risks

## **7.0 Community Impact**

## **Consultation**

- 7.1 The impact on the community, the amount of community involvement and consultation for each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

## **Equality and Diversity Impact**

- 7.2 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel assesses all the applications against set criteria which includes commitment to equality and diversity.

## **Social Value Impact**

- 7.3 The projects which applicants put forward for consideration to the CEPGS are generated by the communities themselves based on identified needs and are projects which are of significant value to that community. Communities value the positive changes that can be made to their lives through these funded projects.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.4 The application form which applicants complete for the CEPGS asks about impacts on the environment. The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel considers environmental sustainability when assessing the applications.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

- 8.1 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme continues to provide the Council with an excellent means to directly support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for residents. It also enables community partners to lever additional external funding into the district from other funding sources.
- 8.2 The CEPGS continues to achieve a wide geographical spread of funded projects across the South Derbyshire district. In a review of the scheme looking at grants awarded since 2012, community projects in Aston, Barrow on Trent, Burnaston, Church Broughton, Church Gresley, Egginton, Etwall, Findern, Hatton, Hilton, Linton, Melbourne, Newhall, Newton Solney, Overseal, Repton, Rosliston, Shardlow, Smisby, Swadlincote, Ticknall, Weston upon Trent, Willington and Woodville have been supported through the CEPGS.
- 8.3 The CEPGS supports a variety of community projects. The review of the CEPGS recorded the types of projects supported since 2012. These included play and recreation, arts, increasing/improving support services, improving community facilities, sports equipment/improvements to sports provision, environmental improvements and new community facilities.
- 8.4 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the community and voluntary sector.