
REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	3rd OCTOBER 2019	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee agrees to the proposals for a scheme to distribute the £275,000 of Capital funding that has been identified within the Council's budget and confirmed at the Finance and Management Committee 29 August 2019.
- 1.2 That the Committee agrees the requirement for a minimum 50% matched funding.
- 1.3 That the Committee agrees to authorise delegated powers to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel Members to award project development grants. These grants are to cover professional fees and costs to secure planning permissions subject to a single award not exceeding £2,000 and an overall maximum of £20,000 (7.27% of the total grant pot).

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 As part of the annual financial planning cycle £275,000 has been identified to provide a capital grant programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21. This report recommends a scheme for the distribution of the identified funding.
- 2.2 The report identifies criteria for application and a process to facilitate the distribution of grants.

3.0 Summary and Overview

- 3.1 A proposal for a scheme to distribute £275,000 of funding to the Voluntary Sector has been developed.
- 3.2 Criteria have been based upon the need to address the Council's Corporate aims and objectives as well as locally identified needs within communities.
- 3.3 It is proposed to use existing mechanisms to assess applications and administer grant payments.
- 3.4 It is proposed to allow a small proportion of the overall funding pot (max. £20,000, 7.27%) to be made available as development grants targeted at covering the costs of professional and planning fees incurred as part of project development.
- 3.5 Capital grants are targeted at larger projects. The minimum project size is to be maintained at £4,000.
- 3.6 Organisations will be allowed to apply for support towards a single project during any financial year. Development grants will be made to cover up to 100% of identified professional and planning costs subject to a maximum level of £2,000. Main grants will be offered for an amount between £1,000 and £25,000. The upper limit of £25,000 includes any development grant already secured by the organisation.
- 3.7 Previously, criteria have enabled the support of environmental projects. In support of the recent declaration of "Climate Emergency" on 27 June 2019, it is proposed to encourage project applications that aspire to reduce environmental impact, drive positive environmental culture and support a Carbon Zero/neutral District. Applications under this criteria will allow the Council to track/understand how individual projects will be delivered sustainably and address local community needs

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 There continues to be a desire to support non-profit organisations within South Derbyshire with grants, as well as professional support, to identify and apply for additional funding from other sources. In line with this £275,000 capital funding has been identified that will allow the Council to support a number of projects during 2019/20 and 2020/21, targeted at the Voluntary Sector .

Voluntary Sector / Non-profit in the context of the Community Partnership Scheme refers to:

- Charities, Community Interest Organisations (CIO's), constituted community groups and clubs.
- Parish Councils for projects that are outside of their statutory duties.
- Community Interest Companies (CIC's) will be considered if all activities, as well as distribution of surplus, can be shown to be for community

benefit. (Some CIC's, while using surpluses for community benefit, undertake activities that are not specifically for community benefit.)

- 4.2 Criteria for applications for grant funding are deliberately broad allowing applications from constituted non-profit organisations for capital projects that provide benefits for residents of South Derbyshire, addressing locally identified need. Organisations are required to identify how projects are consistent with the themes of the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy. In keeping with the declaration of "Climate Emergency" it is proposed to encourage applications that aspire to reduce their environmental impact, drive positive environmental culture and support a Carbon Zero/neutral District. Guidance notes for the scheme, attached at Appendix A, give a more detailed breakdown of the type of project that can be supported and relevant criteria.
- 4.3 In addition to addressing local need a key criteria of the Community Partnership Grant Scheme is to attract funding into South Derbyshire in support of the development of community infrastructure. Further to this, the scheme has a requirement for matched-funding. A minimum of 50% matched-funding is required for any application. This is consistent with the previous grant scheme that the Council offered.
- 4.4 The Scheme aims to support a wide variety of projects and communities. In line with this organisations will be allowed to apply for support towards a single project during any financial year. This can be either a main grant or a development grant plus an application for a main grant for the same project once plans and permissions have been secured. (See 4.5 and 4.6 below.)
- 4.5 One of the areas that creates delay in the implementation of projects within the non-profit sector is securing funding. Many funders do not now allow applications to be submitted until all relevant permissions for building and development have been secured. Securing funding to pay for professional fees such as architects and associated costs to secure permissions can add months to the implementation time of a project as many funders work on a 12-16 week turnaround.

It is proposed to allow a small proportion of the overall funding pot (max. £20,000, 7.27%) to be made available as development grants targeted at these costs.

Grant applications towards professional fees will still need to show that there is a local need for the main project and that appropriate consultation has been undertaken. It will also be necessary to show that the final project will contribute towards the Corporate priorities of the Council.

- 4.6 The maximum grant that can be applied for towards professional fees and permissions is £2,000. Development grants will be made to cover up to 100% of identified professional and planning costs. Applications will be considered outside of the Council's Committee cycle to reduce delay to a minimum. To facilitate this it is requested that the Grant Panel of the Community Partnership

Grant Scheme be given delegated powers to award these grants within the limits identified.

- 4.7 Main grants will be offered for an amount between £1,000 and £25,000. The upper limit of £25,000 includes any development grant already secured by the organisation. Receipt of a development grant does not guarantee success with an application for a capital grant once permissions have been received, each is considered on merit at the time of application.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 As detailed in the report

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 There are no other legal, personnel or other corporate implications apart from any covered in the report.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The purpose of the report is to enable grant funds to be distributed to support the development of capital projects within the community. It is expected that the allocation of grants from the Council will accelerate projects and allow the delivery of a number of community infrastructure projects within South Derbyshire.
- 7.2 The delivery of community infrastructure is a key target within the Corporate Plan as it will have a direct impact on a wide range of service delivery directly within local communities.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None

