
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	08 February 2007	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	DELEGATED OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Community Partnerships Scheme	REF: HCS 07
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That members consider the recommendation of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award a grant to

Dove Valley Community Project – Thistley Place Meadow £3,415

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update members on applications for funding received by the Community Partnerships Scheme and seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Community Partnerships Scheme for 2006/07 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to Committee.
- 3.2 In total one application was received for the third bidding round of 2006/07 asking for £3,415 against a remaining budget of £108,707.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The Community Partnership Scheme offers capital grants of up to £25,000 from an annual budget of £100,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel comprising five Councillors, with advice from the Partnership and Development Manager and the Community Partnerships Officer, assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.
- 4.2 The following applications were received and considered for the third round of the scheme in 2006/07:

Dove Valley Community Project – Thistley Place Meadow

Local people from Hatton raised money amongst themselves (£32,000) to purchase a field and island adjacent to the River Dove at Auction in May 2006. They have now constituted themselves and undertaken to transform the land into a nature reserve for all to enjoy. They have consulted with a number of environmental organisations to produce a robust and environmentally sensitive project plan. The total project has been costed at £20,324, which includes items such as a 5yr management plan, insurance, sit on mower, planting, shredder, disabled access provision, bins, benches and training etc

They have some funds towards the project from initial fundraising and a successful application to East Midlands Airport Community Fund. They have applications pending with 3 other funding sources, have approached companies for sponsorship, identified potential other funding sources and made plans for their own fundraising initiatives.

- 4.3 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 10th January 2007 to score the applications against the questions and weightings previously agreed during the relaunch of the scheme. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

Once the weightings had been applied the final score of the projects was as follows:

Dove Valley Community Project	7.17
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- 4.4 The point previously used, as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee was 4.67. The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant was therefore as follows:

Dove Valley Community Project	£3,415
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- 4.5 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources the project will be contacted and informed of the decision. A successful project will then have 12 months in which to spend their award. If the grant is not spent within this time period then applicants will need to reapply unless otherwise agreed. Grant payments will be released upon receipt of invoices or independently certified completion reports. The projects will also be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project have been met.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnership Scheme's budget allocation.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing a sustainable environment, reducing crime and disorder, developing a vibrant economy and improving access to leisure and cultural activities. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Community Partnerships Scheme continues to provide the District Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It also enables the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments Round 3 2006-07