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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Services</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>27 April 2006</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Director of Community Services</b>	<b>DELEGATED OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>M Roseburgh/ D Fletcher</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Partnership Scheme</b>	<b>REF: HCS 07</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	

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**1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That members consider the recommendation of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award a grant totalling a maximum of £1,750 to Repton Parish Council for their heritage map project.
- 1.2 That members determine whether the application from Aston on Trent Memorial Hall Committee for refurbishment of the Memorial Hall Extension and upgrade is eligible for assessment at a future panel meeting.

**2.0 Purpose of Report**

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

**3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Community Partnership Scheme for 2005/06 is continuing according to the same processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to Committee.
- 3.2 In total two applications were received for the fourth bidding round from Repton Parish Council and Aston on Trent Memorial Hall Committee. The panel decided to only score the Repton Parish Council application and requested that officers revisit the original application from Aston on Trent Memorial Hall Committee to determine whether the present application covered costs requested in the first application. The panel went on to request that a decision on eligibility for assessment should be made by committee in the light of the clarification obtained. (A summary assessment is attached as Appendix 1)

**4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 The Community Partnership Scheme offers capital grants of up to £25,000 from a budget in 2005/06 of £150,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and

community sector. A panel comprising five Councillors, with advice from the Partnership Development Officer and the Community Partnership 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 fourth round of the scheme in 2005/06:

#### **Repton Parish Council – Repton Heritage Map**

The aim of the project is to provide a heritage and tourist map for visitors into the village that identifies historical features and other amenities. The total project cost is £7,000 and following funding has been already been secured:

Contributions from NEMA and Toyota	£1,000
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The parish council have adequate reserves to meet the part of the balance and other funding is being sought.

The parish council, the village society and the local history village group have recognised with the community that the area would benefit from readily accessible information available to visitors. The project will be specifically designed to increase the profile and accessibility of local features and amenities, and will target visitors of both the younger and the older generations, therefore improving the overall delivery of the service to the whole community.

#### **Aston Memorial Hall Committee – “Fit for Purpose”**

The aim of the project is to refurbish elements of the redevelopment of the Aston Memorial Hall. The refurbishment was costed at £25,000 with eligible capital costs of £23,541 including items such as fittings (storage, stage extension, lighting), furnishings (chairs, tables, carpets, notice boards etc), kitchen crockery and utensils, specialist equipment (filing cabinets, projector, screen) and redecoration.

The committee has a potential £17,000 from it's own reserves, has eight small scale funding applications pending and has sought sponsorship from 25 local companies.

The items contained within the cost have been determined following much local consultation and are required to finish off the redevelopment of the hall to the required standard.

- 4.3 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 5 April 2006 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.
- 4.4 Prior to commencing assessments the panel debated the eligibility of the “Fit for Purpose” application as they were unsure as to whether the present application covered costs requested in the Committee's first application. In light of this uncertainty they requested that officers revisit the original application from Aston on Trent Memorial Hall Committee to determine whether the present application covered costs requested in the first application. The panel went on to request that a decision on eligibility for assessment should be made by committee in the light of the

clarification obtained. Officers have since undertaken an assessment of the situation and this is attached as Appendix 1.

The Repton project was assessed and once weightings had been applied the final score of the project was as follows:

**Repton Parish Council – Heritage Map Project** **5.17**

4.5 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 to support the scored project. The Repton application did contain inaccurate and incomplete estimates to support the project costs. The panel therefore recommended that the grant was subject to provision of further estimates and up to a maximum of £1,750 based on 25% of actual costs up to £7,000 in total.

4.6 The recommendation for award of grants subject to the above conditions was therefore as follows:

**Repton Parish Council – Heritage Map Project** **£ 1,750**

4.7 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources, projects are 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 Partnerships 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 Appendix 1 – Project Assessment – Aston on Trent Memorial Hall Internal Refurbishment

9.2 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments Round 4 2005/06