
REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 5
DATE OF MEETING:	7th JULY 2020	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	IAN HEY (01283) 228741 ian.hey@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP SCHEME GRANT	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee agrees to the proposals for changes to be made to the existing scheme criteria to assist applicants who are unable to find the required match funding in the current climate.
- 1.2 That the Committee agrees the maximum amount of grant that can be awarded is increased to 100% of the project cost where an applicant can demonstrate they have been unsuccessful accessing match funding.
- 1.3 That the Committee agrees to authorise delegated powers to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel to make decisions on when the grant contribution can be increased above the current 50% ceiling.

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.
- 2.2 The report offers an update on applications received and offers a proposal to assist applicants and encourage applications.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A proposal for a scheme to distribute £275,000 of funding to the Voluntary Sector was approved by Housing and Community Services Committee on 3rd October 2019. The criteria are based upon the need to address the Council's

Corporate aims and objectives as well as locally identified needs within communities.

- 3.2 Capital grants are targeted at larger projects. The minimum project size is £4,000.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Within the current criteria, grants provided will be between 5% and 50% of total project cost, with a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £25,000
- 3.5 The current requirement is for the applicant to secure a minimum 50% of the total project cost. This criterion is designed to encourage another route for inward investment into South Derbyshire in support of the non-profit sector.
- 3.6 The scheme was launched in December 2019 via a press release and promotion via Parish Councils, South Derbyshire CVS as well as the District's online communications channels.
- 3.7 To date one application has been submitted for scoring and three projects are at the development phase.
- 3.8 In order to assist community groups in delivering projects that will benefit the local community during the current unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic it is proposed to increase the maximum level of grant from 50% to up to 100% of the total project cost, subject to the existing maximum grant of £25,000.
- 3.9 Increasing the level of grant above 50% should only be considered in exceptional circumstances, where an applicant has tried, but failed, to access funding from other funding streams.
- 3.10 It is recommended that delegated powers be given to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel to make decisions on when the level of grant contribution can be increased above the current 50% limit.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 No additional financial implications to the Council although it will potentially reduce the level of match funding coming into the District from external funders.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 There are no other legal, personnel or other corporate implications.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 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 within local communities. The changes will potentially make it easier for community groups to access funding that can make a difference for their communities.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 Appendix A – Amended Guidance Document

