

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021</b>	<b>CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>(STRATEGIC DIRECTOR- SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>IAN HEY, <a href="mailto:Ian.Hey@southderbyshire.gov.uk">Ian.Hey@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a></b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>EXTENSION TO THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP SCHEME</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: (See Notes)</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 That the Committee approves the extension of the Council's Community and Environment Partnership Scheme (CEPS) for an addition two-year period to until end of March 2023.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

2.1 To update the Committee on the current position with the Council's Community and Environment Partnership Scheme.

2.2 To seek Committee approval for extending the scheme for an additional two-year period.

## **3.0 Detail**

3.1 The CEPS offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to support projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A sum of £250,000 has been allocated to the Scheme to enable grants to be made in support of applications received during the current funding cycle.

3.2 The Scheme was launched in October 2019, and to date five projects have been awarded grants totalling £88,731. Four additional projects are at in the initial development stage.

3.3 It was originally planned for the scheme to run until March 2021, however due to Covid 19 very few enquiries have been made about the Scheme over the past 12 months and £161,269 remains unallocated.

3.4 Developing major capital projects may not be a current priority for many Voluntary and Community sector organisations at present due to the affects of the pandemic on the sector and therefore it is requested to allow the scheme to remain available for applications for a further two years until end of March 2023.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The remaining £161,269 to be available for the Community and Environment Partnership Scheme for an additional two years until the end of March 2023.

4.2 Any unspent balance in previous years has been carried forward and is included within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

##### **Corporate Plan Implications**

5.1 The scheme contributes to all of 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 customers.

#### **6.0 Community Impact**

6.1 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.

#### **7.0 Conclusions**

7.1 The Community and Environmental Partnership Scheme provides the Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It also enables community partners to lever additional external funding to the District. Unsurprisingly, due to the pandemic, interest in the scheme has been lower than would have been expected over the last 12 months. Extending the Scheme for a further two years will give organisations time to re-engage with local communities, identifying any changes required as a direct result of COVID restrictions as well as developing new projects.