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REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM:
DATE OF MEETING:	10 March 2005	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	DELEGATED OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh/D Townley-Jones	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Community Partnership Scheme	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants totalling **£21,046** to:

Phoenix After School Club Recreation in Aston	Phase 1 Refurbishment Recreational facility pre build project	£ 7,525 £13,521
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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 2004/05 has continued according to the same processes and procedures as was agreed when the scheme was relaunched last year with the addition of formalised terms of reference and increased councillor representation on the assessment panel. In addition to allocating grants, the scheme allows for funding advice and project development support to the voluntary and community sector.

3.2 In total three applications were received for the fourth bidding round of 2004/05 asking for £27,296 against a remaining budget for the year of £35,108. Two applications were recommended to receive a grant and one recommended to receive additional scrutiny prior to a resubmission.

4.0 Detail

4.1 A revamped Community Partnership Scheme was re-launched midway through 2002/03 offering capital grants of up to £25,000 to projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A panel initially comprising three Councillors, later increased to five, with advice from the Partnership Development Officer was set up to

assess projects against set criteria and then make recommendations about grant distribution to the Committee.

4.2 In addition to simply operating a grants programme, the Community Partnership Scheme through the Partnership Development Officer and the Community Partnership Officer is also able to offer some advice in relation to making funding applications, sources of funding and project development. Further in some instances the officer is able to offer direct project development support.

4.3 The amount of grant available for distribution through the Scheme has been increased from £50,000 in 2002/03 to £150,000 in 2003/04 and 2004/05. The total available for distribution this year is £176,975 as £26,975 has been carried forward from last years scheme due to some under strength applications and some project underspend.

4.4 In Rounds 1,2 and 3 of the scheme, 10 grants were made totalling £141,867 to:

Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust	£ 6,000
Church Broughton Village Hall & PF Committee	£ 1,000
Findern Parish Rooms	£17,500
Hilton Harriers Football Club	£25,000
West Street Development - Phase 1	£25,000
Woodville Parish Council	£15,750
Repton Pre School	£22,000
Money Spider Credit Union	£ 3,367
Aston on Trent Memorial Hall	£25,000
Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust	£ 1,250

4.5 The applications received and considered for the 4th round were as follows:

**Phoenix After School and Holiday Club – Phase 1 Refurbishment
(Requesting £7,525)**

The organisation provides inclusive out of school care for children between the ages of 3 – 16 years. The organisation has a voluntary management committee made up of members of the community and parents who use the service. The committee members employ a full-time chief executive to manage the day-to-day running of organisation.

The aim of the project is to part refurbish a church building, refitting the kitchen area, adding a disabled toilet and ensuring disabled access to the building.

To ensure the viability of the project Phoenix need to secure a long-term lease. This is currently being negotiated with the church and appears close to completion. Once in place it should assist with the anticipated further development of the site.

The total eligible project cost is calculated at £30,098. The project has requested £7,525 from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from the organisations own reserve, donations from user groups, County Council and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust.

**Recreation in Aston – Recreation facility pre build project
(Requesting £13,521)**

This project covers the initial pre-build work required to assist the organisation in providing recreational facilities in Aston. The Recreation in Aston group has engaged with young people and the wider population within the village to establish the need to improve upon their previous community sports participation and facilities by building a new sports pavilion.

The project will provide local facilities for the all age groups of young people as a vehicle to enhance their experience of participation in sport and also to address youth problems within the village. It will also allow the parish council to provide a wider range of recreational facilities at the playing field, for members of all ages within the community.

Costs for the pre-build project are £54,084, which includes site surveys, architects fees, structural reports, surveyors costs and other building estimated costs.

The project has requested £13,521 (25% of total project cost) from this scheme. The remainder of funding will be matched from various sources such as Co-operative Community Dividend, Hanson Environment Trust, and they also have funding from their own reserves of £18,694.

- 4.6 The Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel met on 22nd February 2005 and scored 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.

In the discussion prior to the scoring of the application from Friends of Coton Park, the panel identified some concerns around the eligibility of the application. At present the project appears to be predominately led and owned by the District Council. As a result the panel decided not to score this application and requested officers seek clarification about project ownership prior to a resubmission.

Once the weightings had been applied, the final scores of the projects were as follows:

Phoenix after School Club	4.67
Recreation in Aston	5.00

- 4.7 Both projects assessed scored higher than or the same as the point previously used as a cut off in terms of making positive recommendations to committee (4.67)

The panel's recommendation for distribution of grant is therefore as follows:

Phoenix After School Club	Phase 1 Refurbishment	£ 7,525
Recreation in Aston	Recreational facility pre build project	£13,521

- 4.8 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources all projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. Successful projects 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 reintroduced 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 4 2004/05