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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members agree the proposals for a scheme to distribute the £250,000 of Capital funding that has been identified within the Council's budget and confirmed at the Finance and Management Committee 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- 1.2 That members confirm the requirement for 50% matched funding.
- 1.3 That Members agree to authorise delegated powers to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel Members to award project development grants. These grants to cover professional fees and costs to secure planning permissions subject to a maximum single award of £2,000 and an overall maximum during 2018/19 of £20,000 (8% of the total grant pot).

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 As part of the annual financial planning cycle £250,000 has been identified to provide a capital grant programme for 2018/19. This report recommends a scheme for the distribution of the identified funding.
- 2.2 The report identifies criteria for application and a process to facilitate distribution of grants.
- 2.3 The report introduces project development grants that will enable organisations to pay for professional fees and planning costs, enabling them to apply for matched funding earlier.

## **3.0 Summary and Overview**

- 3.1 A proposal for a scheme to distribute £250,000 of funding to the Voluntary Sector has been developed.
- 3.2 Criteria have been based upon the need to address the Council's aims and objectives as well as locally identified needs within the community.
- 3.3 It is proposed to use an amended version of the existing mechanisms to assess applications and administer grant payments.
- 3.4 It is proposed to allow a small proportion of the overall funding pot (max. £20,000, 8%) to be made available as development grants targeted at covering the costs of professional and planning fees incurred as part of project development.
- 3.5 Capital grants are targeted at larger projects. The minimum project size is to be maintained at £4,000.
- 3.6 Organisations will be allowed to apply for support towards a single project during any financial year. Development grants will be made to cover up to 100% of identified professional and planning costs subject to a maximum level of £2,000. Main grants will be offered for an amount between £1,000 and £25,000. The upper limit of £25,000 includes any development grant already secured by the organisation.

#### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 There continues to be a desire to support non-profit organisations within South Derbyshire with grants, as well as professional support, to identify and apply for additional funding from other sources. In line with this £250,000 of capital funding, targeted at the Voluntary Sector, has been identified that will allow the Council to support a number of projects during 2018/19.

Non-profit in the context of the Community Partnership Scheme refers to:

- Charities, Community Interest Organisations (CIO's), constituted community groups and clubs.
- Parish Councils for projects that are outside of their statutory duties.
- Community Interest Companies (CIC's) will be considered if all activities, as well as distribution of surplus, can be shown to be for community benefit. (Some CIC's, while using surpluses for community benefit, undertake activities that are not specifically for community benefit.)

- 4.2 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. Organisations are required to identify how projects are consistent with the themes of the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy. Guidance notes for the scheme, attached at Appendix A, give a more detailed breakdown of the type of project that can be supported and relevant criteria.
- 4.3 Further to addressing local need a key criteria of the Community Partnership grant scheme is to attract additional funds into South Derbyshire in support of

the development of community infrastructure. This continues to be a key aim within Place in the corporate plan. Further to this the scheme has a requirement for matched-funding. At inception the scheme would provide a maximum contribution of 25% of eligible project costs. Recognising that the funding environment has changed, becoming more difficult, this was amended to a maximum of 50% of eligible costs, when the previous allocation of funds had been made available. It is proposed to continue with 50% as the matched-funding requirement for the scheme.

- 4.4 The Scheme will support a wide variety of projects and communities. In line with this organisations will be allowed to apply for support towards a single project during any financial year. This can be either a main grant or a development grant plus an application to the main grant for the same project once plans and permissions have been secured. (See 4.5 and 4.6 below.)
- 4.5 One of the areas that create delay in the implementation of projects within the non-profit sector is securing funding. Many funders do not now allow applications to be submitted until all relevant permissions re building and development have been secured. Securing funding to pay for professional fees such as architects and associated costs to secure permissions can add months to the implementation time of a project as many funders work on a 12-16 week turnaround.

It is proposed to allow a small proportion of the overall funding pot (max. £20,000, 8%) to be made available as development grants targeted at these costs.

Grant applications towards professional fees will still need to show that there is a local need for the main project and that appropriate consultation has been undertaken. It will also be necessary to show that the final project will contribute towards the strategic priorities of the Council.

- 4.6 The maximum grant that can be applied for towards professional fees and permissions is £2,000. Development grants will be made to cover up to 100% of identified professional and planning costs. Applications will be considered outside of the Council's Committee cycle to reduce delay to a minimum. To facilitate this it is requested that the Community Partnership Grant Scheme be given delegated powers to award these grants within the limits identified.
- 4.7 Main grants will be offered for an amount between £1,000 and £25,000. The upper limit of £25,000 includes any development grant already secured by the organisation. Receipt of a development grant does not guarantee success with an application for a capital grant once permissions have been received, each is considered on merit at the time of application.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 As detailed in the report

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

6.1 There are no other legal, personnel or other corporate implications apart from any covered in the report.

## **7.0 Community Implications**

7.1 The purpose of the report is to enable grant funds to be distributed to support the development of capital projects within the community. It is expected that the allocation of grants from the Council will accelerate projects and allow the delivery of a number of community infrastructure projects within South Derbyshire.

7.2 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 directly within local communities.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

8.1 None