

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 7</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>18 AUGUST 2022</b>	<b>CATEGORY: *HS07</b>
		<b>RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>SALLY HEMSLEY (EXT 5894) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OFFICER</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS GRANT SCHEME</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee accepts the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel, to award a grant as detailed in section 4 of this report.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the applications for Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme (CEPGS) funding received by the Council.
- 2.2 To seek approval to award a grant in line with the recommendations of the Committee's appointed Assessment Panel, established to consider such applications.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The CEPGS is continuing to operate according to processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to the Committee.
- 3.2 One new capital grant application was reviewed by the Assessment Panel, requesting £4,351.70 against a remaining unallocated budget of £42,520 which is available until end of March 2023.
- 3.3 The application has been recommended for grant support by the Assessment Panel, with a value of up to £3,475.85, which represents 50% of the total costs (rather than the amount applied for which represented 66%), subject to the applicant confirming 50% match funding is secured and in place.
- 3.4 The project recommended to receive grant support is as follows:

- a) Up to £3,475.85 to Arts Melbourne CIC, as a contribution towards the purchase of 70 display panels on which artists mount their work and four gazebos for use at the Melbourne Festival. The gazebos will allow extended use of gardens and open spaces at the Melbourne Festival - important in post-Covid recovery times.

#### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 The CEPGS offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to support projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector (VCS). A sum of £250,000 has been allocated to the Scheme since October 2019, to enable grants to be made in support of applications received during the current funding cycle.
- 4.2 An Assessment Panel comprising three Councillors, with support from the Community Partnership Officer and S106 Officer, met on 13 July 2022, to consider the application that had been submitted. The Panel is Chaired by the Chairman of the Housing and Community Services Committee.
- 4.3 The submitted application was assessed against the published set criteria and recommendations about grant distribution are proposed for approval by the Committee.

#### **Applications**

- 4.5 The following application was received and considered for capital funding:
- a) Arts Melbourne CIC (*grant applied for £4,351.70, 66% of total project cost of £6,591.70*) as a contribution towards the purchase of 70 display panels on which artists mount their work and four gazebos for use at the Melbourne Festival. The project also includes the cost of transporting the display panels to storage and materials to paint the panels. The gazebos will allow extended use of gardens and open spaces at the Melbourne Festival - important in post Covid recovery times.

#### **Assessment Panel**

- 4.6 The Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel met on 13 July 2022 via Teams to review the application against the questions and criteria previously agreed. The criteria included links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.
- 4.7 Prior to making a recommendation, the Assessment Panel considered the Scheme's current budget position regarding capital monies. The Scheme had a remaining unallocated budget of £42,520 prior to the allocation of any grants. It was, therefore, identified that there was sufficient funding for the recommended grant to be covered in full, should they meet the Scheme's criteria.

#### **Assessment Panel Recommendations**

- 4.8 The Assessment Panel's recommendation for the distribution of a grant is as follows:
- **Up to £3,475.85 (a maximum of 50% of the project capital costs) to Arts Melbourne CIC** as a contribution towards the purchase of 70 display panels and four gazebos for the Melbourne Festival.

- 4.9 All grant offers for building-based projects are required to evidence appropriate planning / building control permissions
- 4.10 VAT on project costs are only covered where the organisation is not VAT registered and cannot reclaim VAT paid.

4.11 All offers made are subject to the current published standard terms and conditions.

#### **4.12 Belmont Bowls Club Grant Update –**

Further to a maximum grant of up to £10,000 approved at the Housing and Community Services Committee on 10 March 2022, the Panel received an update that the total project cost had reduced to £9,940 and that the applicant was now asking for a greater percentage of the total project cost (£7,940).

The group has evidenced funding applications made following advice from the Community Partnership Officer as well as the CVS. They have secured £2,000 of their targeted monies, but other applications have been unsuccessful. The panel had no objections to the grant being increased to 80% of the total project costs, from a previously agreed 50%. This was agreed in accordance with the criteria which states “In exceptional circumstances where an applicant has tried but failed to obtain the required match funding, the level of grant can be increased to up to 100% of the project cost (to a maximum grant of £25,000) if agreed by the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel”.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The award of grants falls within the remaining unallocated CEPGS budget of £42,520. The total of the grants recommended for award is up to £3,475.85 allowing a balance of £41,104.15 (16% of initial allocation of funds) to be allocated prior to March 2023.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that all remaining funds will be recommended for allocation at the next grant panel, date to be identified, during 2022/2023.

### **6.0 Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 The scheme contributes to all 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 residents and customers.
- 6.2 The projects supported will also address outcomes that contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy themes of Children and Young People, Healthier Communities, Safer and Stronger Communities, as well as Sustainable Development.

### **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 and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme continues to provide the Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for residents. It also enables community partners to lever additional external funding into the district.