

HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

13 SEPTEMBER 2021

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL INITIATIVE FUND 2020/2021 (CLEANER, SAFER, GREENER) ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide members with an overview of the Parish and Town Council Initiative fund awards for the 2020/2021 'Greener' themed rounds.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Members will be aware that the Parish and Town Council's Initiative Fund 2020/2023 was approved by Policy and Finance Committee on 26th September 2019. The total budget committed to the scheme is £200k with maximum awards of up to £20k per Parish and Town, over the 3 year period of the fund. Each year focusses on either a 'cleaner, safer or greener' theme with 2020/2021 projects and initiatives awarded under the 'Greener' theme, with panels held in April 2020 and November 2020.

2.2 There are two panel meetings each year where applications are considered by the grants panel consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of Policy and Finance, Leisure and Environment and Homes and Communities and the Leaders of Labour Group, Liberal Democrat Group and Independent Group.

2.3 Applications are submitted to the Community Relations Team to be assessed and scored against the schemes criteria, prior to presenting to the panel with recommendations. When considering a grant application the member panel assesses the proposals in terms of value for money, community benefit and alignment to the Council's Community Plan objectives as part of the decision making process.

2.4 A summary of the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund awards made in 2020/2021 is provided in Appendix A.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 That committee notes the summary of Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund awards made in 2020/2021.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 There are no negative equality implications associated with this report. The Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund is open to all sections of the community and the member panel takes into consideration fair and equitable distribution of grants across the district and community. All Parish and Town Council's are given the opportunity to apply and Members are encouraged to promote the scheme within their locality.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 There are no significant digital implications in respect of this report. The application process is completed electronically and due to Covid-19 all grant panels from April 2020 were conducted virtually to ensure the grants programme could continue.

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN21-22/6284)

6.1 The Community Initiative Fund reserve was approved and created at Policy and Finance Committee in September 2019. The total fund value was set up for £0.200m.

6.2 Round 1 of the fund had 6 applications totalling a grant request of £43,221.23. From the applications 3 have been paid totalling £4,386.44, 1 application is committed and not yet paid totalling £20,000 and 2 applications for grant were declined totalling £18,834.79. Further details are on Appendix A.

6.3 Round 2 of the fund had 9 applications totalling a grant request of £68,773.48. From the applications 4 have been paid totalling £27,472.74 (2 paid with a reduction due to savings on the project), 4 applications are committed and not yet paid totalling £23,161.15 and 1 application for grant was declined totalling £17,500. Further details are on Appendix A.

6.4 Rounds 3 and 4 will be delivered this year and costs will be reported back at the next update report.

6.5 Should the balance of the fund not be utilised by projects from Parish Councils, the remaining balance will be allocated into the General Fund balance.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 The Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund contributes to the Council's Community Plan 2020 – 2023 objectives primarily focussing on the 'Cleaner, Safer and Greener' themes that contribute to all of the Council's Community Objectives.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) the report and Appendix A are noted; and
- b) the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund 2021/2022 Annual Review is reported to Committee in 2022.

Reason for Recommendations

To enable the Council to monitor the value and impact of the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund and the development and contribution to the Council's Community Plan 2020 – 2023.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Andy Hardy - Health Improvement and Community Relations Manager on Ext 5708

Suzanne Shead

Director – Housing, Health and Wellbeing