



Report to: Cabinet Meeting – 21 February 2023
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Lloyd – Strategy, Performance & Finance
 Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Director – Housing Health & Wellbeing
 Lead Officer: Andy Hardy, Sports, Community Facilities & Events Manager – Ext 5708

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report, Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Community Grant Scheme Awards
Purpose of Report	To advise Cabinet of the recommendations made by relevant Portfolio Holders in respects of grant applications submitted under the District Council’s Community Grant Scheme.
Recommendations	That Cabinet agree the recommendations of the Portfolio Holders as detailed in Appendix A of the report. <i>The justification for the recommendation is that the schemes have been assessed by Portfolio Holders and Members in respect of alignment to the Council’s wider ‘Community Plan’ objectives and each will provide community value and benefit when delivered.</i>
Alternative Options Considered	That the awards as recommended are increased which would require further additional budget provision.
Reason for Recommendations	To enable the approved schemes, submitted under Round Three of the Community Grant Scheme, to be delivered and thereby provide valuable community benefits aligned to the current approved Council Community Plan objectives.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council has operated a number of grant schemes in recent years supporting Town and Parish Council’s and local community groups to support the delivery of projects and initiatives that benefit local communities with many notable successes. In order to streamline this process and make the grant scheme more widely accessible Full Council, at its meeting of 8 March 2022, took the decision to launch the new Community Grant Scheme. The new scheme replaces the Parish and Town Council’s Initiative Fund and the Community and Arts Grant scheme and has an annual budget of £100k to support applications. The scheme was introduced to enable local community partners to develop initiatives and projects that support the Council’s Community Plan objectives in order to benefit local communities and would run over three funding rounds each year.

- 1.2 Following the launch of the new Community Grant Scheme, 20 applications were approved in round one with awards totalling £73,543. A further 12 applications were approved for round two of the scheme with awards totalling £29,076.
- 1.3 Due to the success of the new grant scheme the initial budget was fully allocated by the second round of the programme therefore the Council agreed in January 2023 that a further £50K would be made available to deliver the final round of the scheme in the current financial year.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

- 2.1 Each application was considered by the relevant Portfolio Holder, based on the primary focus of the proposals, for a recommendation and the outcome of each submission is presented for Cabinet approval. In considering the applications received Portfolio Holders were mindful of the available budget and the significant potential of overspend if all applications received full support, therefore a combination of recommendations have been proposed for the applications as detailed in Appendix A.
- 2.2 It is therefore proposed that Cabinet endorses and approves the recommendations of the Portfolio Holders as detailed in Appendix A of this report and that the awards be made to the successful applicants under the third and final round Community Grant Scheme 2022 – 2023.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

- 3.1 The recommendations of the Portfolio Holders contained in this report take into consideration all relevant matters in relation to wider implications of the applications submitted. The nature of the applications received provide the Portfolio Holder with options to support or decline to support any application based on the applicant's overall proposal, the project's alignment and contribution to the delivery of the Council's Community Plan objectives, the financial status of the applicant body and its ability to deliver the project or initiative as set out in the applicant's proposal.
- 3.2 Where Portfolio Holders are not in a position to support applications, officers will use their best endeavours to support applicants as appropriate to assist them to identify other sources of funding to develop the projects.
- 3.3 Accordingly, only suitable applications have been recommended for approval for financial support and where such proposals require compliance with regulatory and/or legislation requirements these will be adhered to as a condition of the grant offer.

Financial Implications – FIN22-23/767

- 3.3 The budget allocation for 2022/23 is £100,500 with an additional allocation of £50,000 having also been agreed in January 2023, giving a total of £150,500. The round 1 schemes totalled £73,543, with additional schemes totalling £29,076 giving a combined total of £102,619. Any underspend in the current financial year will look to be carried forward into 2023/24 to be added to that years' allocation of £100,000.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None