



Report to: Cabinet Meeting – 10 December 2024

Portfolio Holders: Councillor Paul Peacock, Strategy, Performance & Finance
 Councillor Paul Taylor, Public Protection & Community Relations

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Director - Housing Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson, Business Manager - Regeneration & Housing Strategy, Ext. 5923

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report, Key Decision
Report Title	Community Grant Scheme Update
Purpose of Report	To present an update on the Community Grant scheme delivery for 2024-25 to date and budget setting proposals for 2025-26
Recommendation	It is recommended that Cabinet: a) notes the delivery of the Community Grant Scheme in 2024-25 to date; and b) agrees to continue to budget for the Community Grant Scheme for 2025-26 to 2028-29.
Alternative Options Considered	To withdraw the community grant scheme – this alternative has been discounted due to the demonstrable positive impact the scheme has on the local community – empowering local groups and developing community capacity and resilience. To amend the community grant scheme criteria and prioritisation – this alternative has been discounted as the scheme criteria and prioritisation have only been in place for one year (approved Oct 2023) and continue to reflect the council’s community plan objectives.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that funding can be allocated to community groups, supporting communities to be sustainable and thrive.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In 2022/23 the Council offered, for the first time, a combined community grant scheme, consolidating several previous grant allocations with the intention of providing a simpler and more efficient offer of support to community groups.
- 1.2 During 2023/24, a review of the grant scheme criteria led to a range of changes in eligibility, grant value and prioritisation. These changes were approved by Cabinet on 31st October 2023.
- 1.3 The 2024/25 budget for the grant scheme totalled £150,000 – with £100,000 being approved through Cabinet as part of the budget setting process and £50,000 secured through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

2.0 Community Grant Delivery 2024-25

- 2.1 The first round of the community grant scheme for 2024-25 received 29 applications of which 16 were successfully allocated a grant. Five of these grants were allocated funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2.2 The successful applications were as follows:

Round One			
Group Name	Community Grant Fund Payment Awarded	UKSPF Grant Awarded	Notes
Support ME Maternal Project CIC	£7,101		Full Award
1st Coddington Scout Group		£15,000	Full Award
Bilsthorpe Miners Welfare Scheme		£4,000	Full Award
Walesby Juniors Football Club		£5,000	Full award
Winthorpe Allotment Association	£2,670.72		Full Award
Mending Lines	£4,906.32		Full award
Rainworth Miners Welfare	£5,000		Full award
Friends of Trent Vale Trail		£20,000	Full award
Bilsthorpe Emergency Team	£4,238		Full award
Urban Worm CIC	£2,722.50		Full award
Laxton Village Hall (Laxton Alive)	£1,153.56		Full award
Egmanton Village Hall	£3,000		Full award
Newark Food and Wellbeing Hub	£4,900		Full award
Southwell Minster (Southwell Cathedral)		£5,000	Full award
Coddington and Winthorpe Cricket Club	£4,000		Partial award
Newark Steam Punk Society	£2,050		Partial award

Total	£41,742.10	£49,000	
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- 2.3 When considering the spread of awards across the district, eight awards were to Newark based group/ activities, seven for Sherwood based groups/ activity and one that covers both areas.
- 2.4 All successful applications met one of the schemes 'priority areas' for funding including
- five demonstrating match funding
 - three that met the climate change agenda
 - four that supported a reduction in anti-social behaviour
 - four that supported residents managing the cost-of-living crisis.
- 2.5 Thirteen applications were unsuccessful in achieving grant and direct feedback has been provided to all unsuccessful applicants to support them in any future funding bids.
- 2.6 Unspent allocations of £1,000 SPF and £58,257.09 Central Grant were carried forward for allocation in Round 2 which closed on the 28th October 2024. A cross-party panel meets on the 11th December to review the 34 applications.

3.0 Proposed Community Grant delivery 2025-26

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agree to continue to budget for £100,000 for the Community Grant scheme for 2025-26 onwards.
- 3.2 It is future proposed that the existing eligibility and prioritisation criteria are carried forward into 2025-26. Given that all successful applications met one of the priority criteria, it has been demonstrated that the funding is being directed towards those projects that align with the council's community plan objectives.

4.0 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.

4.1 Financial Implications – FIN24-25/634

- 4.1.1 The current year has a revised budget of £227,128. This is made up of the £102,250 initial budget, £124,878 management carry forward from 2023/24 to fulfil the commitments made during last financial year. In addition to this £50,000 has been made available within the SPF budget.
- 4.1.2 There is currently a budget for the grant scheme in 2025/26 to 2028/29 within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan that can facilitate the need highlighted in the report and provide sufficient funding for the scheme.
- 4.1.3 It is also proposed that any funds from the current year's budget be carried over to fulfil commitments made to groups in the current year where grant may not yet be expended.

4.2 Equalities Implications

4.2.1 The community grant scheme has been designed to be run in a transparent and open manner with opportunity for all elected members to input to the process. The scheme does not discriminate based on any protected characteristic and has had a positive impact on several groups with protected characteristics including groups supporting young people, older people, and those with mental illness. Additional support is available to any applicant who may require this e.g. through this provision of applications in large print or braille, or support in completing an application if required. For additional support, applicants should contact: communityengagement@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

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.

Cabinet 31 October 2023 – Revisions to the Community Grant Scheme – Item 56 -
<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=288&MId=886>