



Report to: Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance  
Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations

Decision Date: 13 March 2025

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Paul Peacock and Cllr Paul Taylor

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

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson, Business Manager Regeneration and Housing Strategy, x5923

Report Summary	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open report/ non-key decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Amendment to Community Grant Scheme Criteria and carry over of unclaimed grant.
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek approval for amendments to the Community Grant Scheme eligibility criteria for 2025-26 and the reallocation of unclaimed grant from previous years into 2025-26 round.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>That the Portfolio Holders approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Amending the eligibility criteria of the Community Grant Scheme to include smaller Parishes (less than 100 homes) and Parish Meetings as eligible for grant funding.</li> <li>ii. That the unclaimed grant detailed at section 2.3, totalling £29,500 is added to the Community Grant Scheme for 2025-26 for fresh allocation.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Considered</b>	<b>Options</b> That smaller Parishes (less than 100 homes) and Parish Meetings remain ineligible for funding under the Community Grant Scheme – this has been discounted to allow those smaller parishes to have the opportunity to secure funding where precepts are limited by virtue of the size of the parish.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To extend the opportunity afforded by the Community Grant Scheme to smaller parishes who would otherwise struggle to secure funding through their precept by virtue of the size of the parish.

	To ensure that unclaimed grant is directed back to community projects.
<b>Decision Taken</b>	As per the recommendations.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The current criteria for the Community Grant Scheme was agreed by Cabinet in October 2023.
- 1.2 At Cabinet in December 2024, it was queried by the Leader of the Conservative Party whether the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Relations would consider an amendment to the criteria to allow smaller parish and town councils to apply for funding.
- 1.3 Prior to October 2023, town and parish councils had been eligible but it was recognised that some of the applications were for projects and schemes that should have fallen under the Town or Parishes day to day maintenance and responsibilities and so, in recognition that Town and Parishes could raise their own funds through the setting of a precept, it was agreed to make them ineligible for the Community Grant Scheme which would therefore prioritise those groups that cannot raise funds in this way.
- 1.4 Following discussions, the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Relations and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance and Finance are in agreement with the proposed changes outlined in this report

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed to re-open the community Grant Scheme to those smaller parishes and parish meetings with less than 100 homes within the parish in recognition of their limited ability to raise a precept annually due to the low number of properties within the parish.
- 2.2 This will mean that 22 additional parishes will now be eligible for the Community Grant Scheme as detailed below.

<b>Parliamentary</b>	<b>County Division</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Parish/Town</b>	<b>Number of properties</b>
Sherwood Forest	Blidworth	Rainworth South & Blidworth	Lindhurst (Meeting)	8
Newark	Balderton	Farndon & Fernwood	Staunton-in-the-Vale (Meeting)	13
Newark	Balderton	Farndon & Fernwood	Kilvington (Meeting)	23
Newark	Muskham & Farnsfield	Sutton-on-Trent	Grassthorne (Meeting)	26
Newark	Balderton	Farndon & Fernwood	Alverton (Meeting)	28
Newark	Southwell	Southwell	Halloughton (Meeting)	32
Newark	Farndon & Trent	Farndon & Fernwood	Hawton	33
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	Holme (Meeting)	38

Newark	Muskham & Farnsfield	Sutton-on-Trent	Maplebeck (Meeting)	39
Newark	Muskham & Farnsfield	Southwell	Winkburn (Meeting)	40
Sherwood Forest (from 29/11/23)	Southwell	Dover Beck	Gonalston (Meeting)	42
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	Spalford (Meeting)	42
Newark	Balderton	Farndon & Fernwood	Cotham (Meeting)	44
Newark	Muskham & Farnsfield	Sutton-on-Trent	Ossington (Meeting)	51
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	Wigsley (Meeting)	53
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	Girton (Meeting)	64
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	North Clifton (Meeting)	76
Newark	Farndon & Trent	Farndon & Fernwood	Syerston (Meeting)	81
Sherwood Forest	Ollerton	Ollerton	Perlethorpe-cum-Budby (Meeting)	84
Newark	Muskham & Farnsfield	Southwell	Hockerton (Meeting)	86
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	South Scarle (Meeting)	90
Newark	Collingham	Collingham	Besthorpe (Meeting)	93

- 2.3 In addition to changes with the grant criteria, this report requests approval to carry over unclaimed grant from previous years into the grant scheme for 2025-26. These grants have gone unclaimed as the projects for which they were allocated have not gone ahead and include:

#### Community grant scheme 2022/2023

- Oxtou Parish Council awarded £2,500
- Lowdham Parish Council awarded £2,500
- Edwinstowe Parish Council awarded £2,500
- Sutton on Trent Parish Council awarded £2,000
- Southwell Football Club awarded £2,500
- 1<sup>st</sup> Coddington Scouts awarded £2,500

#### Community grant scheme 2023/2024

- Reach awarded £10,000
- Sherwood Forest Education Partnership £5,000

Total Value: £29,000

### 3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding &

Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

### **3.1 Financial Implications – FIN24-25/6230**

A further £102,250 was allocated to the Community Grant Scheme for 2024/25 with carry forwards from the previous year bringing the total budget to £227,128. Carry forwards in each year are generally in response to grant being allocated in year to a group but not yet claimed.

In the 2025/26 budget there is £104,300 and a management carry forward will be requested for any unspent funds at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. As before, the majority of these funds will be committed to projects, with the £29,000 identified in 2.3 uncommitted. This budget can therefore fund the above additions of smaller parishes to the criteria.

### **3.2 Equality Implications**

It is not anticipated that there will be any adverse equality impacts from this decision. The decision opens rather than further restricts the criteria and does not have a direct impact on any protected characteristic.

### **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