

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2019

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL INITIATIVE FUND 2020 - 2023

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To secure Policy & Finance Committee approval for the new Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund 2020 – 2023 criteria.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 This fund is a year 1 priority for delivery as part of objective 10 in the Council's Community Plan to 'increase participation with the Council and within local communities'. It is aligned to the delivery of the Cleaner, Safer, Greener (CSG) priorities, which underpin and support:

- Objective 1 of the Community Plan, to 'improve the cleanliness and appearance of the local environment';
- Objective 2, to 'reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities', and;
- Objective 6, to 'protect, promote and enhance the district's natural environment'.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The proposed criteria for the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund 2020 – 2023 (attached at **Appendix A**) has been developed based on consultation between the Council's Leader and member colleagues and will support projects and initiatives from parish and town councils which contribute to the objectives highlighted above.

3.2 The fund proposes that potential grants will be allocated over a three-year cycle, consisting of two grant panels per year, which are themed. In year one it is proposed the focus will be applications that support the 'greener' principle, year two the 'safer' principle and year three the 'cleaner' principle.

3.3 It is proposed that the awarding panel will be represented by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Policy & Finance, Homes & Communities, Leisure & Environment Committees and group leaders; creating a panel consisting of nine members.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 Equalities implications are considered in the Equality Impact Assessment that has been completed and this will be subject to further monitoring as part of the evaluation process and reporting requirements of the Fund. However, there are no adverse equality implications identified in the Equality Impact Assessment.

5.0 Financial Implications (FIN19-20/6484)

5.1 The Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund was created at the start of the financial year 2019/20 and £200,000 is available for the proposals being adopted. This fund will be used with effect from April 2020 over a 3 year period.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 The implementation of the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund 2020 – 2023 will support Objectives 1, 2, 6 and 10 of the Community Plan 2019 – 2023 as highlighted in 2.1 above.

7.0 Comments of Director

7.1 I support the proposal to approve the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund 2020 – 2023 which will facilitate the development and delivery of parish and town councils initiatives and projects that will contribute to the achievement of local priorities and the District Council's Community Plan 2019 – 2023.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Policy & Finance Committee approves the Parish and Town Council Initiative Fund criteria for 2020 – 2023.

Reason for Recommendation

To enable the Council to deliver key objectives within the Community Plan 2019 - 2023.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Leanne Monger on Ext 5545 or Andy Hardy on Ext 5708

Matthew Finch
Director - Community & Environment