
REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	31st JANUARY 2019	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	IAN HEY, 01283 598741 Ian.Hey@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS SCHEME	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee accepts the recommendations of the Community Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in section 4.19 of this report.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To inform the Committee of the applications for Community Partnership Scheme (CPS) funding received by the Council.

2.2 To seek approval to award grants in line with the recommendations of the Committee's appointed Assessment Panel established to consider such applications.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 The CPS is continuing to operate according to processes and procedures as previously agreed and reported to the Committee.

3.2 In total, two new capital grant applications and a re-submission were reviewed by the Assessment Panel, requesting £36,081 against a remaining budget of £32,017.

3.3 The total value of the three projects is £72,167.

3.4 Three applications have been recommended for grant support by the Assessment Panel, with the value of grants to be offered totalling £28,396.

3.5 The three projects recommended to receive grant support are as follows:

- £11,599 to Lullington Village Hall: Upgrading the kitchen, disability access and energy efficiency.
- £14,025 to Melbourne Assembly Rooms: To improve acoustics, lighting and heating.

- £2,772 to Whistlewood Common (Melbourne): To support the development of a classroom and event space.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The CPS offers capital grants of up to £25,000 to support projects brought forward from the voluntary and community sector. A sum of £250,000 has been allocated to the Scheme to enable grants to be made in support of applications received during 2018/19.
- 4.2 The first panel awarded grants to the value of £217,983 leaving £32,017 to be allocated.
- 4.3 An Assessment Panel comprising four Councillors, with support from the Community Partnership Officer, met to consider applications that had been submitted. Councillor Dr Hilary Coyle Chaired the CPS Assessment Panel.
- 4.4 Submitted applications were assessed against set criteria and recommendations about grant distribution were identified to forward to the Housing and Community Services Committee.

Applications

- 4.5 The following applications were received and considered for capital funding:

- 4.6 **Lullington Village Hall** – Project value £23,206 : grant applied for £11,599.

The village hall is an old building with a Grade 2 listing. The management committee is looking to update the facility. The need for this has been identified through consultation with both users and the wider community. The need for a quality facility has become more apparent as all bus services to the village have now been withdrawn. The elements identified will make the building more accessible and reduce the ongoing costs helping to develop sustainability for the hall.

The management group will be working with the Community Partnership Officer to identify and apply for the matched funding required.

- 4.7 **Melbourne Assembly Rooms (MARS)** – Project value £43,425: grant applied for £21,710.

An initial application was submitted to refurbish the main hall. The panel invited MARS to rework its application to remove revenue elements of the project that could not be funded through the CPS. The revised application included a number of elements including acoustic improvements, upgrading lighting, heating and ventilation as well as replacement floor grates, seating cover and curtain extension.

The Assembly Rooms had identified £19,000 through local fundraising and allocation of reserves towards the project.

Applications have been submitted to raise the balance of funding required.

- 4.8 **Whistlewood Common (Melbourne)** – Project value £5,543: grant applied for £2,771.50.

The organisation has built a new straw bale and timber roundhouse to act as a classroom and event space. This project is to fit out the space with heating, water capture and solar lighting as the building is totally off-grid.

All required matched funding is in place.

Assessment Panel

- 4.9 The CPS Assessment Panel met on 16 January to review the applications against the questions and criteria previously agreed. The criteria included links with corporate priorities, security of external funding, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.
- 4.10 Prior to making a recommendation, the Assessment Panel considered the Scheme's current budget position regarding capital monies. The Scheme had an initial allocation of £250,000. The first panel allocated £217,983 to grants leaving a balance of £32,017 available to be allocated.

Assessment Panel Recommendations

4.11 The Assessment Panel's recommendation for distribution of grant is as follows:

- £11,599 to Lullington Village Hall: Grant to contribute towards upgrading the kitchen, disability access and energy efficiency.
- £14,025 to Melbourne Assembly Rooms: Grant to contribute towards improvements to acoustics, lighting and heating.

The application was for £21,710. On consideration the panel identified that elements of the bid were for repairs and renewals as well as soft furnishings, which were not considered to be eligible. The grant recommended equates to 50 per cent of the project costs after ineligible elements were removed.

- £2,772 to Whistlewood Common (Melbourne): Grant towards the fit-out costs of a new classroom and event space.

4.12 All grant offers for building-based projects are required to evidence appropriate planning / building control permissions.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The award of grants falls within the CPS's remaining budget allocation of £32,017. The total of the grants recommended for award is £28,396. The panel has tasked the Community Partnership Officer with supporting an additional project to come forward for the remaining £3,621.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The scheme contributes to all of the priority areas in the Council's Corporate Plan, with individual projects contributing to People, Place, Progress and Outcomes through delivering inward investment, independent living, leisure and cultural activity and focus on the community as customers.
- 6.2 The projects supported will also address Outcomes that contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy themes of Children & Young People, Healthier Communities, Safer and Stronger Communities, as well as Sustainable Development.

7.0 **Community Implications**

- 7.1 The scheme maximises funding available for community investment by providing both direct funding and enabling leverage from other funding sources. It also continues to offer a direct line of communication with the voluntary and community sector.
- 7.2 The impact on the community and amount of community involvement in each individual project has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

8.0 **Conclusions**

- 8.1 The CPS continues to provide the Council with an excellent means to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It also enables community partners to lever in additional external funding to the District.