
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	06 February 2003	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	Head of Community services	RECOMMENDED OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M Roseburgh	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Community Partnerships Scheme	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That members consider the recommendations of the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel and award grants totalling £50,000 to, All Saints Parochial Church Council – Hatton, Linton Youth Facility Working Group, Lullington Cricket Club, Church Gresley Methodist Church, Overseal Parish Council and Newhall Central Methodist Church.
- 1.2 That the amended system of assessment recommended by the Task and Finish Working Group and used by the assessment panel this year be used in any continuation of the scheme. Further that the panel should meet a minimum of two times in a year with possible further meetings dependant upon the volume of applications received.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update members on revised assessment procedures and applications for funding received by the Community Partnerships Scheme. Also to seek approval for recommendations from the assessment panel for awards from the scheme and administrative arrangements for any continuation of the scheme.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 At the November Housing and Community Services Committee a task and finish working group was set up to make changes to the scoring system and scoring criteria of the Community Partnerships Scheme. As a result of their meeting it was decided that all applications should be scored at the same time by an appraisal panel including 3 councillors as well as the Partnership Development Officer and that the scoring should be amended to give more impact to community involvement
- 3.2 In total nine applications were received asking for £94,778 against a budget of £50,00. The panel assessed and ranked the applications according to the new criteria and have made a recommendation to fund six of the nine projects, three for the full amount requested and three pro rata to their requests from the remaining budget. The three remaining unsuccessful projects are to be invited to resubmit their applications if the scheme continues next financial year.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 At its meeting on 21st November 2002 the Housing and Community Services Committee recommended that the previously agreed format for the Community Partnerships Scheme needed some amendments prior to allocation of any grants.
- 4.2 In order to make the amendments the committee set up a task and finish working group of six councillors that met on December 9th.
- 4.3 As advised by the committee the working group considered the scoring criteria, the scoring system and publicity arrangements.
- 4.4 As a result of their considerations the following changes were made to the scheme
- 1) That all applications to the 2002/03 scheme be judged at the same time instead of on a first come first served basis and that previously scored applications be reassessed according to amended criteria and any new information available.
 - 2) That the assessment criteria be amended so that the weighting given to Council priorities was reduced by 10% to 15% and the weighting given to community involvement was increased from 10% to 20%. To assist with this an extra question related to impact on the community was added to the assessment criteria. N.B. The revised assessment criteria have been attached to this report at Appendix 1.
 - 3) An assessment panel of three councillors (2 Labour, 1 Conservative) plus the Partnership Development Officer was set up to replace the previously agreed system whereby the Partnership Development Officer alone scored the projects and made recommendations to committee.

The publicity arrangements were generally considered to be sufficient and appropriate. However it was suggested that the Partnership Development Officer should contact Parish Councils through the Area Committee structure when details of any scheme for 2003/04 were known.

- 4.5 The above changes did not affect the basic elements of the scheme. That is, firstly, that there is £50,000 available which needs to be awarded before March 31st 2003, secondly, that the key principles of the scheme are that it should provide support for community groups in South Derbyshire, assist in attracting external funds to South Derbyshire and encourage self-help and joint working. Lastly that the grants are to support capital and not revenue costs, will normally be between 5% and 25% of total project cost and with a minimum award of £1,000 and a maximum of £25,000.
- 4.6 In order to meet committee deadlines the closing date for receipt of applications was set at January 9th. By that date guidance notes and application forms had been sent out to nineteen organisations and from these nine completed applications had been received.
- 4.7 In brief applications were received from

All Saints Parochial Church Council – Hatton for a replacement Community Hall
(Requesting £5,000)

Overseal Parish Council for a Community Resource Centre
(Requesting £25,000)

Lullington Park Cricket Club for an enlarged community based cricket pavilion
(Requesting £15,000)

Linton Youth Facility Working Group for new youth facilities.

(Requesting £4,620)

Church Gresley Methodist Church for adaptation of premises for the disabled

(Requesting £2,000)

St Johns Parochial Church Council in Newhall for improved car parking

(Requesting £3,000)

Newhall Central Methodist Church for restoration and renovation of their church building

(Requesting £18,000)

South Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau to help set up their Citizens Connect IT initiative

(Requesting £4,975)

Parochial Church Council of Christ Church Linton and Castle Gresley for refurbishment of their "Brick Room" community facility

(Requesting £17,183)

4.8 Further details of the projects have been summarised in Appendix 2.

4.9 The Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel met on January 15th and scored the applications against the revised questions and weightings previously described and attached as Appendix 1. The weighted criteria include links with corporate priorities, sustainability, value of other contributions, value for money, community involvement, risk and commitment to equal opportunities.

4.10 The table below illustrates the weighted scores from the appraisals, the total score and the ranking.

Project	Council Priorities	External Funding	Sustainability	Community Involvement	Value for Money	Risk	Equal Opps	Total	Rank
Hatton	0.5	2.00	2.17	1.33	0.33	0.5	0.33	72	1
Overseal	0.5	1.33	1.83	1.00	0.67	0.17	0.17	57	5
Linton	0.5	2.00	1.83	1.00	0.67	0.33	0.17	65	2
Lullington	0.5	1.33	1.67	1.00	0.67	0.33	0.5	60	3
Church Gresley	0.5	2.00	1.67	0.67	0.33	0.5	0.33	60	3
St Johns Newhall	0.5	0.67	1.00	0.67	0.33	0.33	0.00	35	9
Newhall Central MC	0.5	1.33	1.83	1.00	0.33	0.33	0.33	57	5
Citizens Connect CAB	0.5	0.00	2.17	0.67	0.33	0.33	0.33	43	8
Linton Brick Room	0.5	1.33	1.00	1.00	0.33	0.17	0.33	47	7

4.11 With the scoring completed the assessment panel then considered how best to distribute the £50,000 available particularly bearing in mind that the scheme was oversubscribed by approximately £45,000. The panel took into consideration a number of factors, first and foremost the scores attained through the assessment process but also judgements about whether the projects were time critical, whether awards could be scaled down and whether projects could be usefully resubmitted subject to funds being available in the next financial year.

4.12 As a result of these deliberations the panel's recommendations were as follows. That the top two scoring projects (Hatton and Linton youth facility) should receive full awards. That Church Gresley as a small project (£2,000) in joint third should also receive a full award. That the remaining budget should be divided pro rata between the next 3 highest scoring projects (Lullington, Overseal and Newhall Central Methodist Church) all of which were requesting larger amounts.

4.13 The three other lowest scoring projects were deemed able to resubmit subject to further funds being available and likely to benefit from more time to develop their project and increased guidance from the Partnership Development Officer.

4.14 The panel's recommendation for distribution of the £50,000 available for this financial year is therefore as follows:

All Saints Parochial Church Council - Hatton	£5,000
Linton Youth Facility Working Group	£4,620
Church Gresley Methodist Church	£2,000
Lullington Cricket Club	£9,980
Overseal Parish Council	£16,503
Newhall Central Methodist Church	£11,897

4.15 When committee has agreed the allocation of resources each of the projects will be contacted and informed of the decision. Successful projects will then have 12 months in which to spend their award. If the grant is not spent within this time period then applicants will need to reapply unless otherwise agreed. Grant payments will be released upon receipt of invoices or independently certified completion reports. The projects will also be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the project have been met.

4.16 After completing the assessment and recommendation process the panel also considered the most appropriate system for any continuation of the scheme in the next financial year.

4.17 It was felt that the existing system of assessment by panel using the updated scoring matrix had been effective and should continue in the same format next year if required.

4.18 Further, as any budget for 2003/04 would operate over a whole year (as opposed to half a year with the current scheme) it was suggested that the panel should meet a minimum of two times in the next year with possible further meetings dependant upon the volume of applications received.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The award of grants falls within the Community Partnerships budget allocation.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The scheme contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including safeguarding and enhancing the natural and built environment, promoting the health and welfare of all sections of the community, managing resources efficiently and effectively and supporting the development of the National Forest. In addition each individual project's impact on corporate priorities has been assessed as part of the appraisal process.

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 has also reopened direct lines of communication with the community sector that had been lost since the demise of the former Community Partnership Scheme.
- 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 reintroduced Community Partnerships Scheme has provided an ideal opportunity for the District Council to support a variety of community partners in improving the quality of life for local residents. It has also enabled the community partners to lever in additional external funding to the district.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 File: CPS – Returned applications and assessments 2002/03

