

## DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

7 October 2013

#### Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director Health and Community Safety

#### Community Building Grants

##### 1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to allocate funding from the Community Building Grant programme to fund community building projects, or permanent equipment to strengthen local communities.

##### 2. Information and Analysis

At its meeting on 24 April 2012, Cabinet agreed to establish a Community Building Grant fund of £1million. The purpose of this fund was to provide one-off capital grants to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of local communities, building on the priorities set out within the Council Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy. Cabinet agreed that the fund should also:

- Support partnerships of properly constituted local organisations to help bring communities closer together.
- Contribute to the development of multi-use capital projects such as community or sports facilities which will be used by the public over at least a ten year period.
- Give priority to partnerships that have raised resources locally towards the proposed projects.
- Provide a minimum of £10,000 and maximum of £250,000 towards the total capital costs.
- Support projects that demonstrate sustainability in terms of future running costs.
- Support well developed projects able start in the next 12-18 months.

Funding criteria and guidance for applicants were developed in partnership with voluntary and community sector representatives and other funding bodies, ensuring that a clear, understandable and transparent process was established.

A maximum of £250,000 was available to voluntary and community organisations, who could submit applications in one of the following three categories;

**Large projects.** For projects seeking a contribution of between £100,001 and £250,000. Aimed at supporting organisations looking to build new large scale

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community facilities or bring neglected buildings back to use as community facilities. Evidence of 50% match funding towards the total cost of the project and a detailed business plan were required.

**Medium projects.** For projects seeking a contribution of between £25,001 and £100,000. Aimed at supporting organisations looking to complete major repairs to existing community facilities or provide new outdoor multi-use facilities. Evidence of 30% match funding towards the total cost of the project and a detailed business plan were required.

**Small projects.** For projects seeking a contribution of between £10,000 and £25,000. Aimed at supporting organisations looking to carry out minor repairs or refurbishment to existing community facilities. Evidence of 20% match funding towards the total cost of the project were required.

In addition to the written application the following documents were required for each project;

- Governing documents, for example their constitution.
- Letters of support from the local community.
- Previous years accounts for the organisation.
- Budget breakdowns for the project costs.
- Three detailed quotes for the work from suppliers.
- Proof of ownership or lease hold for the facility or land.
- Copies of relevant documents, for example planning approvals and designs.

The deadline for receipt of applications was 30 September 2012. A total of 72 applications were received with requests ranging from £10,000 to £250,000. The total amount of funding requested was £6,455,157. The applications were assessed against the agreed criteria by a panel made up of representatives from within the County Council (including Corporate Finance, Procurement, Property Services, Chief Executive's Office) and from voluntary and community sector organisations including, The Big Lottery, Links Council for Voluntary Services and Rural Action Derbyshire.

The panel used the criteria to identify those projects that were both feasible and eligible for the grant, establishing a shortlist for each category. This was then refined following further investigation and requests for clarification from some applicants. Failure to submit the documents outlined above resulted in applications being considered ineligible. However, a number of projects did show the potential to deliver against the criteria, but fell short on issues such as planning consent or match funding available. Five small and five medium projects were awarded funding totalling £442,222 which was approved at the Finance and Management Cabinet Member meeting on the 30 November 2012. A further two large projects were awarded funding totalling £351,409 at the Cabinet meeting on 22 January 2013. In addition a further £100,000 of the funding has been committed to the development of allotments across the county, and a further report outlining proposals in relation to this will be

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brought to the Cabinet Member meeting in due course. This leaves £106,369 remaining in the budget.

### **Moving Forward**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Communities has requested that those projects which showed potential, but that fell short during the initial assessment process, be revisited with a view to allocating the remaining funding at the earliest opportunity. These projects have been contacted to ascertain whether their circumstances have changed i.e. that they now have full planning consent for their proposal or match funding is in place. Given the level of remaining funding available only small and medium projects were eligible at this stage.

All of the possible projects have now been assessed, and five fully meet all of the criteria for the scheme. It is proposed that the limited funding benefits projects in the areas of greatest need. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010 highlights those areas which, across a range of indicators including employment, health, education, crime and living environment, are relatively more deprived. With this in mind the projects have been ranked using the IMD by Lower Super Output Area, along with the percentage of match funding provided. Appendix A lists the projects and their rank within Derbyshire, with one being the highest level of deprivation in the county. It is proposed that the first two projects on the list, Wirksworth Recreation Ground Development Partnership and Riddings Cricket Club, be supported at a total cost of £90,694. These two projects also offer the best value for money in relation to the percentage of match funding provided.

Upon approval the two organisations will be notified and will receive an agreement in principle to fund their project subject to formal grant conditions. A payment schedule will be agreed in line with agreed milestones for the project. The projects will be evaluated, to ensure that funding continues to meet identified needs and priorities.

### **3. Legal Considerations**

The creation of the Community Building Grant fund is enabled by Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which gives local authorities a general power of competence. This includes the power to provide financial assistance to any person.

### **4. Financial Considerations**

If grants of £38,986 for Wirksworth Recreation Ground Development Partnership and £51,708 for Riddings Cricket Club are approved, the total £90,694 can be met from within the budgetary allocation.

### **5. Property Considerations**

The feasibility of the proposals and costs outlined have been assessed by officers from within the Council's Corporate Property Division.

### **6. Other Considerations**

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In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health and transport considerations.

## **7. Key Decision**

No

## **8. Call-in**

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? - No

## **9. Background Papers**

Full Council meeting 1 February 2012, Revenue Budget 2012/13 report.

Cabinet meeting 24 April 2012.

Finance and Management Cabinet Member meeting 30 November 2012.

Cabinet meeting 22 January 2013.

Community Buildings Grant applications and supporting information held in the Policy & Research Division.

## **10. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities;

1. Approves the allocation from the Community Building Grant programme of £38,986 to Wirksworth Recreation Ground Development Partnership and £51,708 to Riddings Cricket Club;
2. Receives evaluation and monitoring reports at appropriate intervals;
3. Receives proposals relating to the allocation of funding for allotment initiatives in due course.

**DAVID LOWE**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND STRATEGIC DIRECTOR HEALTH AND**  
**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Project	Description	Total Project Costs	Grant Requested	Percentage of Match Funding Provided	IMD 2010 Derbyshire Rank by Lower Super Output Area (based on the location of the development)
<b>Wirksworth Recreation Ground Development Project</b>	Provide a new multi-use building on the recreation ground which will comprise officials changing facilities, score box, meeting/ training room and grounds man cabin.	£61,320	£38,986	36.4%	<b>173</b>
<b>Riddings Cricket Club</b>	Convert the cricket pavilion into a sports venue, which will increase the use of the pavilion for all year round activities. Improve the social area and changing facilities and increase the size to provide storage for sports equipment.	£85,379	£51,708	39.4%	<b>187</b> (Adjacent LSOA within Riddings East and Ironville ward is ranked 6 <sup>th</sup> most deprived in Derbyshire)
<b>St Mary's Chapel of Ease</b>	Open up the 'tin hut' tabernacle building, in Sawley to the wider community and create a community hub, to ensure it is used every day and not just Sundays. Phase 2, funding is sought for a newly fitted kitchen and additional accessible toilet to open up the internal space which will give an increased and adaptable area for social and communal activities.	£73,702	£48,360	34.3%	<b>297</b>
<b>Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall</b>	To replace old single glazed windows at the front of the building with doubled glazed hardwood windows. To renovate the unevenly worn floor in the main hall.	£24,177	£19,341	20%	<b>362</b>
<b>Recreation in Aston</b>	To complete a full renovation of the recreation centre and expand the use of the building. Improvements will include a larger changing room, new shower facilities, disabled toilet, officials changing room, additional toilet facilities, an indoor meeting room and repairs to external woodwork.	£99,758	£69,831	30%	<b>436</b>