

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

22 January 2013

Report of the Chief Executive

Community Building Grant

(Leadership and Culture)

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. The fund was launched at the Council's Big Society event, which took place on 12 June 2012.

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 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 was 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 (CVS) 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. A finalised list of large projects, which are recommended for funding, are detailed at Appendix A. 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. A report outlining details of Small and Medium projects recommended for funding was approved at the Finance and Management Cabinet Member meeting on the 30 November 2012.

3. Moving Forward

Upon approval, successful applicants will be notified and will receive an agreement in principle to fund their project subject to formal grant conditions, and evidence of match funding from other funders. A payment schedule will be agreed in line with agreed milestones for each project. All successful projects will be evaluated, to ensure that funding continues to meet identified needs and priorities. Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback to explain why they have not received funding at this time, and signposted to alternative funding sources where applicable.

Given the number of applicants, particularly those showing the potential to be eligible for funding in the future, it is proposed that a further £1million be allocated to the Community Building Grant programme for the 2013/14 financial year. It is also recommended that, subject to approval, further work be undertaken with local Elected Members and Councils for Voluntary Service to ensure high quality applications are received from across Derbyshire.

4. 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.

5. Financial Considerations

If the recommendations outlined in Appendix A are supported, the total grant award for the large projects will be £351,409 and this can be met from within the budgetary allocation.

The total cost of the proposed small and medium projects is £442,222. A report outlining details of these projects was approved at the Finance and Management Cabinet Member meeting on the 30 November 2012.

A further £100,000 of the funding has been committed to the development of allotments across the county. Funding to continue with Phase 2 of the Community Building Grant programme in the 2013/14 financial year could be met from the Council's Capital Reserves.

6. Property Considerations

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

7. Other Considerations

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.

8. Key Decision

No

9. Call-in

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

10. Background Papers

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

Cabinet meeting - 24 April 2012.

11. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet;

1. Approves the allocation of funding from the Community Building Grant programme to the projects outlined at Appendix A.
2. Receives evaluation and monitoring reports at appropriate intervals.
3. Approves the allocation of a further £1million from the Council's Capital Reserves, to fund Phase 2 of the Community Building Grant programme for the 2013/14 financial year.

**NICK HODGSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Appendix A

Large Capital Building Grants

Organisation Name	Amount Requested	Total Project cost	Project description
Melbourne Sporting Partnership	£250,000	£1,260,000	To provide a new multi-use clubhouse. This is phase 2 of the project. The clubhouse will provide space for rugby, cricket, football, tennis and bowls clubs. There will be a kitchen, bar, meeting room and viewing balconies on the upper floor. Funding has already been secured for phase 1 of the project to create 3 additional grass pitches and improve drainage.
Chesterfield Panthers RUFC	£101,409	£1,900,000	To provide an enhanced community facility, so that people of all ages can participate in a wide a variety of social, leisure and fitness activities. The premises will be available for educational use. This is a key element of phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 of the project has been completed, with work taking place to level and seed the pitches