

# **CABINET**

7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## **NHB COMMUNITY GRANTS PANEL**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director Finance & Resources
Wards Affected	<b>All</b>
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Cabinet to consider the findings and recommendations of the NHB Community Grants Panel.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet agree the grants, as detailed in the Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations attached at appendix 1;**
- 2.2 **that the remaining balance of the £87,000 earmarked for the Grants Panel be carried over for 2016/17 HNB Grants process; and**
- 2.3 **Cabinet give consideration as part of the budget process to earmarking funds for the 2016/17 NHB Community Grants Scheme with a view to a further round of NHB Community Grants to take place in 2016.**

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 Following a petition to Council in April 2014 in relation to use of the funding received from the New Homes Bonus (NHB) Grant a NHB Working Group was established which included the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Finance Portfolio Holder, the Labour Group Leader and the Leader of the Independent Alliance. The Group was requested to review the NHB funding, consider options for its use and seek input from the public into their review, before report back to Cabinet and Council on their final proposals.
- 3.2 The NHB Working Group presented a report to Cabinet at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 when consideration was given to a draft scheme with a request for the approval of a percentage of the additional New Homes Bonus grant received in 2015/16 to be used with an appropriate percentage/amount of New Homes Bonus to be allocated to the

scheme as part of the budget setting process to be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan process.

- 3.3 From the scheme the grants were broken down into 2 categories, those of £4,999 and under and those between £5,000 and £17,400 (which was the maximum for any one application). Appropriate applications were designed and full detailed placed on the Council's website.
- 3.4 Applications were invited over the period from 7<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015, with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to consider the applications at a public meeting. A summary of each application to be considered was provided and published in an agenda, together with a timetable of when each application would be considered. The applicants were given the opportunity to present their applications and respond to questions from the Panel. The Panel Members were provided with a scoring matrix form to complete for each applicant. Following the public meeting the Panel Members met in private to consider the applications in detail and review the process.
- 3.5 The applicants were informed of the NHB Community Grants Panel's recommendations on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 with those recommendations also being published on the Council's website. A summary of each applications scoring matrix (as completed by the Panel Members) was included within that summary of the recommendations.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.6 As detailed in Appendix 1 £63,160 of grants has been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members. This results in a balance of £23,840 to be made available. The proposal is that this be utilised to support a New Homes Bonus Grants Scheme in 2017/18. At the present time there is no other funding that has been identified for 2016/17 and it is assumed this will be addressed as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan review.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.7 There are no direct legal implications as a result of the grants being approved.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.8 The allocation of funding will support the provision of projects within local communities and do not impact on the operational services provided by the Council.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.9 The scheme allows all communities that are affected by growth to apply for a grant.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The annual scheme based on the additional funding received from NHB for each financial year mitigates the impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan and ensures that should NHB be revised in the future there is no future commitment from the Council.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations  
Appendix 2 - Summary of Scoring Matrix for Applications Over £5k  
Appendix 3 – Summary of Scoring Matrix for Applications under £5k

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NHB Grants Scheme and FAQs

**7. KEY**

None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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