

**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 Cabinet recommend to full Council that the remaining balance of £72,328 which equates to the balance of the fund carried over from 2015/16 together with the unallocated 2016/17 funding be allocated on the same basis as 2015/16 with the maximum award being £3,500.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 This is the second year of the NHB Community Grants Scheme. Following the 2015/16 applications the scheme was reviewed and a report was considered at Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. As part of the review of the scheme officers assessed how other Councils allocate funding and it was agreed that funding be allocated on the basis of the homes that have been completed in a particular area during 2014/15, as this is the most recent complete year of data being available. It is appreciated that this would not take into account homes that have been brought back into use nor would it reduce allocations for empty/void properties. It is considered that this allocation basis, as used by other Councils, would be the fairest way to ensure a consistent framework for all communities who have been affected by growth. The funding available of £101,004 was distributed in this way.

- 3.2 It was agreed that the amount of £23,860 which was brought forward from the previous scheme year, would be available for any Ward that could show growth, to submit an application and to be considered by the Panel.
- 3.3 From the scheme the grants were broken down into 2 categories, those of £3,500 and under and those between £3,500 and £28,000 (which was the maximum for any one application). Appropriate applications were designed and full details placed on the Council's website.
- 3.4 Applications were invited over the period from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016, with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to consider the applications at public meetings. A summary of each application to be considered was provided and published in agendas, 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 £45,500 of grants has been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members, together with £7,036 from the balance brought forward for 2015/16. This results in an overall unallocated balance of £72,328.

**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 Applications between £3.5k and £28k  
Appendix 3 – Summary of Applications under £3.5k  
Appendix 4 – Ward Breakdown of allocation of funds.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NHB Grants Scheme and FAQs

**7. KEY**

None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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