

CABINET

7th December 2016

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	All
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 following a second round of bids being opened up on 26th September 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet agree to return the funds allocated to Hagley Tennis Club in 2015/16 to the brought forward funds, giving a total available for allocation in Round 2 of £27,324.**
- 2.2 **That the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services be asked to consider requesting a budget pressure in respect of the work detailed in Application 7 (see appendix 2);**
- 2.3 **That Cabinet agree the grants, as detailed in the Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations attached at appendix 1;**
- 2.4 **That Cabinet recommend to full Council that the remaining balance of £27,157 which equates to the balance of the funds unallocated in 2016/17 be carried forward to 2017/18 as an earmarked reserve; and**
- 2.5 **That Cabinet agree to a full and detailed review of the NHB Community Grants Scheme including the administrative arrangements to take place prior to the commencement of the 2017/18 bidding process.**

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 1st 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 year, would be available for any Ward that could show growth. That an application be submitted and considered by the Panel.
- 3.3 Applications were invited over the period from 20th June to 29th July 2016, with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 16th and 17th August 2016 to consider the applications at public meetings. Following that process a report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7th September 2016, with an overall total of £52,536 being allocated to various schemes. This resulted in an overall unallocated balance of £72,328. It was therefore agreed that a second round of bids be opened up to give an opportunity for those funds to be used.
- 3.4 Applications were therefore invited over the period from 26th September to 28th October 2016 with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 16th November 2016 to consider the applications at a public meeting. Following the public meeting the Panel Members met in private to consider the applications in detail and review the process. The outcome of those deliberations is attached at Appendix 1 for Cabinet's consideration.
- 3.5 In respect of Application No 8, Arundel Road Public Open Space and Play Area and Oakalls Play Area. After consideration of the application Members were in agreement that it would not be appropriate use of the funds from this scheme, as from the information provided; it appeared to be the responsibility of the Council. It is therefore recommended that the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services be asked to consider requesting a budget pressure in respect of the work detailed.
- 3.6 During the course of its meeting held on 16th November, the Panel was also provided with information in respect of an outstanding application from 2015/16. This was for the Hagley Tennis Club and following receipt of the update on the project, the Panel was unanimous in its recommendation that the £15,000 initially awarded to the project be

returned to the balances brought forward for 2015/16 as none of the criteria which had been stipulated in the offer of the grant had been met within the 12 month period set down in that offer.

Financial Implications

- 3.7 As detailed in Appendix 1 £61,636 of grants has been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members, which includes £27,324 from the balance brought forward for 2015/16.

Legal Implications

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

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.9 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

- 3.10 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
Appendix 3 – Ward Breakdown of funds to be carried forward to 2017/18.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NHB Grants Scheme and FAQs

7. KEY

None

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

7th December 2016

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering – Executive Director, Finance & Resources
E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk