

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 for 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet agree the grants, as detailed in the Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations attached at appendix 1.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This is the third year of the NHB Community Grants Scheme. Following the 2016/17 applications and a full review of the scheme took place in January 2017 with a report being considered at Cabinet on 5th April 2017.
- 3.2 It was agreed that the amount of £27k which was brought forward from the previous year, would be added to the £144k available for £2017/18 and a deduction of £2k made for administrative costs, leaving a total of £169k available for grants.
- 3.3 Following the full and comprehensive review of the scheme a number of changes were made, including returning to the original format in respect of allocation of funds. A project needed to be able to provide clear evidence how the community had been affected by growth and that that growth would be met by the project.
- 3.4 More detailed involvement from Ward Councillors was also encouraged, with two drop in sessions being held whereby Ward

Members could seek advice in respect of potential projects and how the process would work.

- 3.4 Applications were broken down into two categories, Lower (up to £2,880) and Higher (between £2,881 and £28,800). A “checking” service was also provided for any potential applications prior to the closing date. This gave applicants an opportunity to amend where necessary their applications to ensure that it would at least be considered by the Panel.
- 3.5 Applications were invited over the period from 8th May 2017 to 16th June 2017, with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 20th and 25th July 2017 to consider the applications at public meetings.
- 3.6 Following each meeting the Panel considered the merits of each application and the recommendations are attached at Appendix 1. This provides details of all applications, together with any conditions attached to those which the Panel recommend receive a grant and the methodology behind those which have been refused.

Financial Implications

- 3.7 As detailed in Appendix 1 £168,975 grants have been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members.

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.

CABINET

6th September 2017

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of NHB Grants Panel Recommendations

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NHB Grants Scheme and FAQs

7. KEY

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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