

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 2019/20.

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 **Should the scheme continue into 2020/21 then a full review of the process be carried out prior to the commencement of the grants allocation for that year.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This is the fifth year of the NHB Community Grants Scheme. It was agreed within the Medium Term Financial Plan that the amount of £74,000 would be available for any Ward that could show growth, to submit an application and to be considered by the Panel.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Involvement from Ward Councillors was encouraged and all grants had to receive formal approval by the Ward Councillor before being considered by the Panel.
- 3.4 Applications were broken down into two categories, Lower (up to £1,480) and Higher (between £1,481 and £14,800). A “checking” service was once again 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 be considered by the Panel.

- 3.5 Applications were invited over the period from 7th May 2019 to 14th June 2019, with the NHB Community Grants Panel meeting on 1st August 2019 to consider the applications at a public meeting and on 7th August 2019 in a private meeting.
- 3.6 Following the public 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 rationale for those which have been refused.
- 3.7 At the private meeting the Panel Members also considered the lengthy, time consuming process that is involved in bringing the scheme to its conclusion each year. The Panel therefore recommend that a full and detailed review be carried out should the NHB Community Grants Scheme continue in future years, in order to establish a more cost effective way to distribute the funds available.

Financial Implications

- 3.8 As detailed in Appendix 1 £74,000 grants have been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members.

Legal Implications

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

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.10 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

- 3.11 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

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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

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NHB Grants Scheme and FQAs

7. KEY

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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