
Community Grants Scheme

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Finance and Customer Service
Report Author	Job Title: Democratic Services Officer Contact email: a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881443
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet RESOLVE that:-

Delegated authority be given to the Head of Finance and Customer Service following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources in respect of the detail of the Community Grants Scheme, which will be based on the principles of the New Homes Bonus Community Grants Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following receipt of a petition a number of years ago, the Council previously provided funding for community groups through its New Homes Bonus Community Grants Scheme. This was supported through the funding received from Central Government in respect of new properties built within the previous year.
- 2.2 Funding from Central Government for New Homes Bonus (NHB) has reduced for 2021/22 and there is no certainty around its provision in future years. Therefore, this year the Council was left with £12,000 to distribute within the community. Due to the exceptional circumstances the District has and continues to face due to the pandemic, it was agreed that an additional £68,000 from Covid grant funding should be combined with this figure to create a community grants budget for 2021/22.

- 2.3 it was further agreed that whilst this new Community Grants Scheme would follow the principles of the previous New Homes Bonus Community Grants Schemes, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups would be able to bid for up to £5,000 grant funding each for community projects under this scheme and there would not be a two tier scheme as in previous years nor would the need for housing growth need to be included. However, the support of the relevant Ward Councillor would be required.
- 2.4 Due to the time constraints and the need for the Scheme to be made available to those wishing to make an application as soon as possible, it is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Head of Finance and Customer Service in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling in respect of the Scheme's final detail.
- 2.5 Full details of the scheme together with a set of Frequently Asked Questions will be made available through the Council's website and promoted through Ward Councillors. It is anticipated that these will be available in mid April 2021, with applications being invited to commence from mid May 2021.
- 2.6 The timeline for the application process is attached as it is recognised that there is a need for the funds to be made available as soon as practicably possible.
- 2.7 It is further proposed that the final decision in respect of grant applications will be agreed by a Panel made up of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling, together with the Portfolio Holder for Community Services and a representative from all other political groups and the Panel meetings will be held online.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 £80,000 has been allocated within the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the Community Grants Scheme, as agreed at the Council meeting held on 24th February 2021.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Please consult with the Legal team about these.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 As has been the case in previous years, it is anticipated that the applications received will cover all the Council's strategic purposes.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct climate change implications referring to this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Please consult the Policy team about equalities implications and refer to equality impact assessment, where undertaken, here.

Operational Implications

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The scheme has been included within the Medium Term Financial Plan for the year 2021/22 and therefore there will be no additional cost to the Council, any future scheme would be considered as part of the budget setting process in future years.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Proposed Timeline for 2021/22.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet
2021

31st March

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Denaro – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling	21/03/21
Lead Director / Head of Service	Chris Forrester – Head of Finance and Customer Service	21/03/21
Financial Services	See above.	
Legal Services	Clare Flanagan – Principal Solicitor	
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Becky Green – Policy Manager	21/03/21
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Not applicable	