

## BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Cabinet**  
2021

15<sup>th</sup> September

### Community Grants Scheme

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Chris Forrester – Head of Finance and Customer Services
Report Author	Job Title: Head of Finance and Customer Services Contact email: <a href="mailto:chris.forrester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">chris.forrester@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a> Contact Tel: 01527 881673
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Various
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:-**

- 1.1 the grants, as detailed in the Summary of the Community Grants Panel Recommendations attached at appendix 1 be agreed; and**
- 1.2 Should the scheme continue into 2022/23 then a full review of the process be carried out prior to the commencement in future years.**

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In previous years the Council has allocated a percentage of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding it received to the NHB Community Grants Scheme (which has been in place for seven years). However, funding from Central Government for NHB has reduced for 2021/22 and there is no certainty around its provision in future years. Therefore for 2021/22 the Council was left with £12k to distribute to the community.
- 2.2 Due to the exceptional circumstances the district has found itself in and continues to face due to the pandemic, it was agreed that an additional £68k from the Covid grant funding should be combined with this figure to create a community grants budget for 2021/22. This Scheme has replaced the NHB Community Grants Scheme but followed the principles of the original scheme.

- 2.3 For the financial year 2021/22 the Council has, within the Medium Term Financial Plan, allocated £80k for a Community Grants Scheme. This Scheme was promoted through Ward Councillors, a press release and the Council's website.
- 2.4 Involvement from Ward Councillors was encouraged, and all grants had to receive formal approval by the Ward Councillor before being considered by the Panel.
- 2.5 Applications were invited over the period from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, with the Community Grants Panel meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to consider the applications at public meetings and on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in a private meeting.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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 Community Grants Scheme continue in future years, in order to establish a more cost effective way to distribute any funds available.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 As detailed in Appendix 1 £79,898 grants have been recommended by the Panel to be approved by Members.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 Various – the application form asked for the applicant to provide details of which strategic purpose the project covered and explain why and how this would be met.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 The green thread runs through the Council plan. Please explain if the action proposed has any climate change implications. Please consult with the Climate Change Officer.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The scheme allows all communities to apply for a grant.

**Operational Implications**

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

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 Due to the scheme being funded as one off grants there is no future impact on the medium term financial plan. Should the scheme be run again next year then monies will need to be found from council resources. A report would need to go through the council reporting framework seeking approval for this.
- 7.2 Appropriate controls and checks are in place to ensure that the monies awarded are spent appropriately and in line with the approvals.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Summary of Community Grants Panel recommendations.

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**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Denaro	16/08/21
Lead Director / Head of Service	Chris Forrester – Head of Finance and Customer Services	16/08/21
Financial Services	As above	16/08/21
Legal Services	Venessa Brown/Clare Flanagan	17/08/21
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Rebecca Green/Emily Payne	Consulted throughout the process.
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	N/A	