



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

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FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

SCRUTINY COMMISSION 28 MARCH 2018

WARDS AFFECTED: BURBAGE, SKETCHLEY & STRETTON

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES FUND: ALLOCATION OF FUNDING – BURBAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Report of Director Environment and Planning

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request Scrutiny Commission endorses the allocation of funding from the Developing Communities Fund to the Burbage project.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Commission endorses the funding allocations identified in section 4 of the report through the Developing Communities Fund subject to condition outlined in 4.6

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The implementation of the Developing Communities Fund was agreed at Council, 21 March 2017. The fund was introduced to:-
- support parishes and communities wanting to deliver locally important and ambitious schemes;
 - build on the success of the Parish and Community Initiative Fund; and
 - provide support for larger projects in areas where there is (or is anticipated to be) considerable population / employment growth.

The Director (Environment and Planning) has delegated authority to implement the fund in consultation with the Executive Lead for Rural Communities and the Executive Lead for Town Centres.

- 3.2 All parishes were written to and expressions of interest submitted in December 2016. From these, seven schemes were identified as potentially suitable for funding and were invited to submit an application for funding by 1 June 2017.

- 3.3 Governance arrangements are that:-

- each project will be assessed by two assessors from the Project Team, with further support from Finance, Legal, Planning and Nigel Butler;
- Project Board considers assessors recommendations and confirms which grants should be recommended to SLT for approval;

- Project Board membership is Councillor Ladkin, Councillor Morell, Rob Parkinson and Caroline Roffey;
- Scrutiny Commission are consulted on the recommended grants; and
- SLT agree funding amounts.

3.4 Project Team assessors were identified for each scheme and a full assessment has now been completed for:

Burbage Parish Council: Extension to the Millennium Hall and Building the Pavilion (Assessors: Simon Jones and Malcolm Evans)

4.0 OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

4.1 Burbage Parish Council has been considering extending the Millennium Hall for many years following a consultation carried out during 2012. Burbage Parish Council employed a company called “Focus Consultants” to work with them to provide evidence to inform the parish council if it was financially viable for them to extend and refurbish the existing hall. The Consultants provided an analysis document which has confirmed the potential demand for the extension of the Millennium Hall and the additional activities that could be delivered.

The building is currently used for numerous activities and our rooms are occupied to almost full capacity. The rooms within the building are used by all ages, for fitness, crafts, social gatherings, adult learning classes, volunteer and authority organised holiday clubs. It is also used as a polling Station, for party bookings, dog training and at the moment sports changing facilities and toilets are included on site.

Population growth within the village continues at a pace therefore there is an increasing demand for more facilities.

4.2 To deliver this enhanced provision an extension to the Millennium Hall will necessitate the need to re-model the interior of the existing building and to provide an additional separate facility for called “The Pavilion”. The Pavilion is a necessity to ensure the continued use of sporting activities in the village to allow the creation of new activities to take place on the Britannia Road Recreation Ground which adjoins the Millennium Hall.

4.3 Project Costs: The overall project budget is £978,375.

£426,368	Public Works Board loan
£58,907	Existing developer contributions
£143,100	Parish Council funds
£628,375	Sub contribution total via Burbage Parish Council
£350,000	Burbage Parish Council is requesting funding shortfall from the DCF which is the maximum eligible grant based on projected housing growth.
£978,375	Total

4.4 Planning permissions have been obtained and the commencement of the project is scheduled for Q1 2018/19.

4.5 Project Officers have undertaken a robust evaluation of the project and are satisfied that the criteria has been met and that the scheme offers value for money, is sustainable and therefore, recommends support for this scheme.

4.6 This recommendation to support is based on the following conditions being built into the offer letter:

- The offer of funding should be conditional based on Burbage Parish Council receiving funding from the Public Works Board to ensure the project is fully funded.

5. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

5.1 This report is to be taken in open session.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [CS]

6.1 The existing capital programme as reported to scrutiny on 9 October 2017 set aside £350,000 from within the DCF scheme for Burbage Parish Council Millennium Hall. It is anticipated the scheme will begin in quarter 1 2018/19 and complete during 2019/20.

6.2 The Council will have to ensure that the Councils financial risk is managed. Therefore, the legal agreement will have to cover issues such as charges on assets.

6.3 The Council will only reimburse Burbage Parish Council once an invoice is received which provides evidence and a breakdown of the expenditure incurred.

6.4 VAT risk lies with the Parish. Should any issues arise, the Parish will need to seek independent VAT advice.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

7.1 The Council has a wide power within section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. This is known as the 'wellbeing power' and seeks to promote or improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the Council's area. The statutory power includes providing financial assistance to achieve this purpose.

7.2 In addition to the 'wellbeing power', the Council is also able to utilise the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011. This represents a more recent statutory power and further strengthens the ability of the Council to provide financial assistance as set out within this report.

7.3 Each project will require the Parishes to enter into a legal agreement with the Council. This will ensure that the project is delivered in accordance with the body of this report, and the submitted application.

8. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The fund supports the prosperity aims:
People - Helping people to stay healthy, active and protected from harm
Places - Creating clean and attractive places to live and work
Prosperity - Encouraging growth, attracting businesses, improving skills

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Scrutiny Commission was consulted during the establishment of the fund, and they will also be consulted as part of the process of SLT approving the grant to be awarded.
- 9.2 Burbage Parish Council has undertaken local consultation as part of developing their scheme.

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 10.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 10.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Inadequate governance	Project Team and Project Board established and to continue for duration of fund.	Rob Parkinson
Inadequate evaluation leading to inefficient use of funds	Evaluation by two assessors with support from other officers.	Rob Parkinson
	Recommendations to project board only made once full assessment complete.	Rob Parkinson
Unsatisfactory / incomplete delivery of projects by applicants	Legal agreements with each applicant.	Aftab Razzaq
	Payments upon completion of agreed stages.	Project assessors
Inadequate consideration of users needs	Further consultation prior to / as part of implementation of projects	Project assessors

11. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Developing Communities Fund criteria were established to provide more equitable funding allocations for those communities which are expanding to enable them to provide necessary facilities and longer term sustainability.
- 11.2 Applicants are required to consider the needs of their communities and of all users when developing their projects. Assessors have evaluated equalities within their assessments.

12. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Environmental implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Council Report 21 March 2017: Implementing the Developing Communities Fund.

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