

OPTIONS FOR A HINCKLEY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND
REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY
DIRECTION)

WARDS AFFECTED: HINCKLEY WARDS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Members views on the introduction of a Hinckley Community Initiative Fund.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

i. Members consider a proposal to introduce a community fund based on the criteria set out in the report and provide guidance on the timing of it's introduction for Hinckley.

ii. Members note the financial implications detailed within the report and agree for HAC budgets to be adjusted accordingly.

iii. Members delegate development and delivery of the grant to the Head of Street Scene Services.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

Hinckley members have requested proposals be developed to provide funding for community initiatives within the Hinckley area. This proposal mirrors the Parish and Community Initiative Fund which currently provides up to £100,000 per year to community projects in the parishes. Financial requirements reflect those in the Councils financial procedure rules. Governance requirements (assessment of applications and allocation of grants) reflect the good practice developed over recent years from running the Parish and Community Initiative fund.

Key features of the proposed scheme are:-

- Maximum £20,000 per year available
- Maximum grant of £10,000 per project, and maximum 50% of total capital costs will be funded
- Only capital items will be funded.
- Only constituted community groups with a bank account within Hinckley may apply.
- Applications to be made by November and available from April the following year.
- Applications, assessments and recommendation of grants to be managed by the Green Space team.
- Hinckley area committee to be consulted on recommended grants. SLB to approve allocation of grants.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [KP]**

4.1 In order to establish an initiative fund, a budget will need to be established within the base budget for the Special Expense Area.

4.2 On the basis that balances for the Special Expense Area are kept at the minimum balance required by the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (10% of the Net Budget Requirement), it is recommended that this budget is established through a transfer from reserves on an annual basis.

- 4.3 The forecast position for the Special Expenses Area is summarised below. Based on the proposed Green Spaces Delivery Plan, a budget of £20,000 per annum is recommended for this scheme. Assuming no additional transfers, this leaves reserves balances of £246,840 as at 31st March 2017.

| | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Opening Balance | 308,394 | 224,438 | 209,962 |
| Transfer to reserves | 64,044 | 5,524 | 56,878 |
| Capital Spend | -128,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Voluntary grants | -20,000 | -20,000 | -20,000 |
| Closing Balance | 224,438 | 209,962 | 246,840 |

- 4.4 Members should note that several schemes within the Green Spaces Delivery Plan do not have funding identified. Establishment of this fund will reduce the amount available to fund these schemes.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [EP]

The Local Government Act 2000 empowers the Council to give financial assistance where it promotes the economic, social or environmental well being of the Borough. Members should note, in light of the financial implications, that this power is limited so that if further raising of money were required to enable the authority to exercise this function we would be prohibited from exercising it.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Applications will be assessed against their contribution towards achieving the corporate plan aims.

7. CONSULTATION

No consultation has taken place. This scheme has been developed at the request of Hinckley Councillors.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

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.

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 |
| Non compliance with Councils financial procedures | Ensure financial procedures are reflected in the assessment / payment | Ian Pinfold |

| | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| | process | |
| Not concentrating on corporate priorities | Ensure the assessment process includes contribution to the corporate plan. Officers to assess application and recommend grants, SLB to approve grants. | Ian Pinfold |
| Adverse publicity | Ensure eligibility criteria and decisions are clearly and transparently communicated | Ian Pinfold |

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

If introduced, the Hinckley Community Fund will mirror the Parish and Community Initiative Fund. As such, grants will be available to community groups across the Borough.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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