



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 13 March 2025

Wards affected: All Wards

Parish and Hinckley Community Initiative Fund Allocation of Grants 2025/26

Report of Director of (Corporate and Streetscene Services)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To request that the Scrutiny Commission endorses the allocation of the Parish and Community Initiative Fund (PCIF) 2025/26.
- 1.2 To request that the Scrutiny Commission note the list of schemes approved under this year's Community Equipment Grant and support the proposed amendments to the grant scheme for 2025/26.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Commission endorses the funding allocations of £82,990 for 14 schemes as detailed in section 3.3.
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Commission support the proposed amendments to the Community Equipment Grant as detailed in section 3.4

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 Since 2005 the Parish Community Initiative Fund and Hinckley Community Initiative Fund have distributed £1,922,841 towards 469 local parishes or voluntary organisation schemes.
- 3.2 In 2024/25 the scheme received 13 applications from across the Borough and a total of £91,892 was awarded to 13 schemes.

3.3 Applications for 2025/26:

The table in Appendix 1 of this report provides an objective scoring summary from the assessments made of all the applications by the following Officers: Ian Pinfold – Green Space Manager, Paul Scragg – Senior Green Space Officer and Ben Pipe Green Space Officer.

The assessment panel then determined which applications they felt should be awarded grant funding. This panel consisted of Caroline Roffey Head of Street Scene Services, Ian Pinfold – Green Space Manager, Paul Scragg – Senior Green Space Officer and Ben Pipe Green Space Officer. The grant will fund a maximum of 50% of the project costs. Each applicant must seek support from their Parish Council and Borough Councillor. Only capital items over £5,000 in value are funded and the lowest submitted quote has been used to calculate the maximum eligible grant, unless a good reason has been provided for using a higher quote. Each application has been scored individually against the criteria by 2 officers and an average score given.

To reflect the scale and cost of some climate change projects, it was agreed after a review in 2023 that the maximum grant award will be increased to £20,000 / 50% of project costs. This increased grant size would overrule the £12,000 per parish limit and would only be applied for significant carbon reduction projects.

We have received 14 applications this year requesting a total of £82,990, all schemes scored over 50 out of hundred against the scoring criteria and the panel therefore recommends funding all of the projects as detailed below:

1. Solar Panels– Barlestone Parish Council (Barlestone). Outline: The installation of solar panels at Barlestone Community Centre £6,500.
2. Replacement Mower – Market Bosworth Bowling Club (Market Bosworth) Outline: The purchase of a new mower to ensure quality maintenance of the greens. £3,597.
3. Footpath improvements – Burbage Parish Council (Burbage) Outline: The installation of a new section of footpath and footpath improvements at Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground. £7,975
4. Dadlington Village Hall Carbon reduction scheme – Dadlington Village Hall Committee (Dadlington) Outline: The installation of external Wall insulation at the Village Hall to improve energy efficiency. £6,475
5. St Martin’s Church renovation – St Martin’s Parochial Church Council (Desford). Outline: The installation of 3 new windows to the Church Hall and improvements to the church walls. £3,632
6. New flooring – Sport in Desford (Desford) Outline: The installation of new flooring in the gym. £2,580

7. New Slide for play area – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)
Outline: The installation of a new slide at Kirkby Mallory recreation ground. £2,623
8. Street lighting upgrade – Nailstone Parish Council (Nailstone)
Outline: The upgrade including the installation of LED lamps to 7 x street lighting columns which are under the ownership of the Parish Council. £6,259
9. Solar Panels – Newbold Verdon Parish Council (Newbold Verdon)
Outline: The installation of solar panels at Alan’s Way pavilion. £9,935
10. New inclusive swing – Ratby Parish Council (Ratby)
Outline: The installation of a new set of swings including an inclusive swing at Ferndale Park. £8,674
11. Cemetery Extension Fencing – Shackerstone Parish Council (Shackerstone)
Outline: The installation of new fencing to the boundary of the new cemetery extension land in Congerstone. £6,993
12. Improvements to Village Hall – Sibson Village Hall Committee (Sheepy)
Outline: The replacement of the entrance door and 3 x rear windows at Sibson Village Hall. £3,813
13. Improvements to Toilet facilities – Without Walls Church (Stanton-under-Bardon) Outline: The renovation of the gents toilets within the church building. £8,875
14. Stanton Cinema Club– Stanton-under-Bardon Parish Council (Stanton-under-Bardon) Outline: The purchase and installation of a high quality projector and sound system in the village hall. £5,059

3.4 Community Equipment Grant – 2024/25.

A total of £11,318.40 has been awarded to date for the Following items of equipment, from this year's Community Equipment Grant:

- Alderman Smith No Balls Ladies Cricket, Hinckley. Bench and Tables, £110.00
- Carlton Parish Council, Kissing gate, £400.00
- Nailstone Parish Council, Kissing gate, £400.00
- Friends of Hollycroft Park, Hinckley, New Speaker for PA system £219.00.
- All Saints District Church Council, Cadeby, Gazebo £123.00.
- Sibson Village Hall, Sheepy, New door £500.00.
- Twycross Village Hall Management Committee, New tablecloths, £68.00.
- AFC Barwell, Barwell, New grounds equipment £500.00.
- Nailstone Community Group, Gazebo, £327.55.
- Market Bosworth Parish Council, Kissing gate, £400.00.
- Hinckley Town Tennis Club, Barwell, New Fridge, £75.00

- Burbage Parish Council, Burbage, Defibrillator (supply and install), £830.50
- Green Towers Hinckley Club for Young People, Defib battery and pads, £158.87
- Stanton under Bardon Parish Council, Defibrillator (supply and install), £862.50
- Cadeby Community Trust, Gazebo, £122.50
- Sheepy Magna PTA, Chairs and Tables, £194.47
- Burbage Parish Council, TV for community centre £500.00.
- Barwell Parish Council, D Day bench, £500.00
- Groby Parish Council, Village sign/noticeboard, Recycling bins, £903.63
- Hinckley Sea Cadets, Hinckley, Defibrillator (supply and install), £481.00
- All Saints, Cadeby, District Church Council, Hot water urn, £33.49.
- All Saints, Cadeby, District Church Council, Gazebo, £109.50
- Sweet Pea Bowling Club, Hinckley, New mower, £500.00
- Cadeby Community Trust, CCTV system, £500.00
- Trinity Community Church, Hinckley, Table football for community centre £324.48.
- Barwell Parish Council, Village sign/noticeboard, £300.00.
- Higham CBS /Higham Book Club shelter £404.42.
- Barlestone, Spirit Academy of Dance, Training mats and signage £381.24.
- Stanton under Bardon Parish Council, Flag pole, £411.75.
- Carlton Parish Council, noticeboard, £300.00
- Shackerstone Parish Council, Bench, £377.50

Proposed changes to the scheme:

The current scheme is based on a list of equipment (see below) with a nominal amount and quantity allocated for each. Applicants apply for a certain item/s (up to the maximum number for that item) and the funding is allocated accordingly at either 50% of a required quote or to the maximum amount allocated (whichever is lowest).

Bench or seat: Maximum of two items, Maximum funding of £500 each

Chairs: Maximum of 20 items, Maximum funding £30 per chair

Defibrillator, including supply and install: Maximum of one item, Maximum funding of £1,250

Electrical appliances (kitchen based, for example, oven or fridge):

Maximum of two items, Maximum funding of £75 each

Interpretation panel: Maximum of one item, Maximum funding of £500

Machinery and equipment: Maximum of one item, Maximum funding of £500

Small sign or plaque: Maximum of 10 items, Maximum funding of £50 each

Tree planting schemes (standard size tree): Maximum of five items, Maximum funding of £100 each

Tree planting (whips): Maximum of 500 items, Maximum funding of £1 each

Recycling bins: Maximum of two items, Maximum funding of £200 each

Shelter (bus, cemetery or park): Maximum of one item, Maximum funding of £1,300

Tables: Maximum of five items, Maximum funding of £35 per chair

Village sign or noticeboard: Maximum of one item, Maximum funding of £300

Miscellaneous items: Maximum of one item, Maximum funding of £500

There have been instances during the first year of the scheme where groups have wanted to apply for more than the allocated quantity of certain equipment or where they have not been receiving the full 50% funding because the item/s they are purchasing is more than double the amount received from the grant. There is also currently a gap between what can be funded for equipment in this scheme and what can be funded by the Parish and Community Initiative grant (which has a minimum project amount of £5,000).

In order to streamline the application process and to remove the issues detailed above, it is proposed that the amounts and quantities for each item of equipment are removed. Applicants will be able to apply for up to 50% for any item or items of equipment (based on 1 required quotation) up to a maximum amount of £2,500 (there will still be a limit of up to £3,000 per Parish area). This will simplify the grant process and will allow applications up to a maximum of £5,000 (with match funding from the applicant) which will cover the gap for items or projects that don't meet the £5,000 or above criteria of the PCIF grant.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 This report will be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (I B)

5.1 The estimated cost of £82,990 in 2025/26 will be met from the £124,000 Parish & Community Initiatives budget.

6. Legal implications (S T)

6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The Parish & Community Initiative fund supports parishes and community groups to achieve the following aims and objectives of the Corporate Performance Plan:

- Creating a vibrant place to work and live
- Empowering Communities
- Providing value for money and pro-active services

8. Consultation

8.1 Scrutiny Commission is consulted as part of the decision to agree grant applications.

9. Risk implications

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

9.2 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.

9.3 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
The projects rely on third party delivery and there is therefore a risk that some of the projects may not be delivered	Only projects that are likely to be completed in the following 12 months are recommended for funding	Paul Scragg
Certain projects have conditions attached.	Applicants are required to meet condition, before final grant is awarded.	Paul Scragg
Misuse of funds	Funding for projects is only released once scheme is completed and evidence of completion and payment of the works is received.	Paul Scragg

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 All grants are awarded to the rural areas, and parish council support is sought for each application.

10.2 Equalities issues are considered as part of the assessment process.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 The recommendations for proposed changes to the scheme include an increase in scoring for environmental projects which have a positive effect on the climate.
- 11.2 The sustainability of each projects is consider during the assessment process and is scored accordingly.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector

Background papers: Appendix 1 attached

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Executive member: Cllr M Cartwright – Executive Member for Rural Affairs
Cllr L Hodgkins – Executive Member for Parks, Open Spaces and Neighbourhood services

Appendix 1

Name of Scheme	Parish	Max Eligible Grant	Total Scheme Cost	Amount of Grant Applied for	Assessed by	Average Score	Amount recommended for award and Assessor Recommendation
Barlestone Community centre solar panels	Barlestone	£12,000	£29,972	£6,500	PS	IP/PG	£6,500 permitted development no PP required.
Replacement mower	Market Bosworth	£3,597	£7,194	£3,597	PS	IP	
Footpath improvements	Burbage	£8,949	£17,898	£8,949	PS	IP	£7,975 based on lowest quote
Dadlington village hall carbon reduction scheme	Dadlington	£6,475	£12,950	£6,475	PS	IP/PG	No PP required permitted development
St Martin's Church renovations	Desford	£3,632	£7,265	£3,632	PS	IP/PG	£3,632 No PP required
Gym flooring	Desford	£2,580	£5,160	£2,580	PS	BP	£2,580
New Slide	Peckleton	£2,623	£5,245	£2,623	PS	BP	£2,623
Street lighting upgrade	Nailstone	£6,259	£12,518	£6,259	PS	IP	£6,259 only 1 quote received from LCC. Recommended as specialist works.
Solar panels for pavilion	Newbold Verdon	£9,935	£19,870	£9,935	PS	BP	£9,935 No PP required permitted development.
Inclusive swing	Ratby	£8,674	£17,347	£8,674	PS	BP	£8,674
Cemetery fencing	Shackerstone	£6,993	£13,985	£6,993	PS	BP	£6,993
Replacement entrance door and windows	Sheepy	£3,813	£7,626	£3,813	PS	BP	£3,813
Renovation of Gents Toilets	Stanton-under-Bardon	£5,175	£17,750	£5,175	PS	BP/IP	£8,875

Stanton Cinema Club	Stanton-under-Bardon	£5,059	£11,258	£5,629	PS	IP	£5,059 capital element of scheme only as per criteria of scheme.
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