



**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL HINCKLEY WARDS**

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request the Hinckley Area Committee support the allocation of grant funding through the Hinckley Community Initiative Fund 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Hinckley Area Committee supports the funding allocation of £9,581 (as detailed in section 4) of the Hinckley Community Initiative Fund 2015/16

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 A grant fund of £20,000 was made available to community groups in Hinckley in August 2014, since the fund was opened we have allocated a total £10,419 to the following two projects:

Historic Information sign – St Mary’s Church, Hinckley. (Castle Ward). Grant £419.

St. Mary’s Church Clock & Tune Playing Machine Restoration – St Mary’s Church PCC (Castle Ward) Grant £10,000.

- 3.2 A further three applications have been received as detailed in section 4.4. As there is currently only £9,581 remaining in the budget, Officers have evaluated the applications and allocated funding accordingly.

- 3.3 This report recommends that the IT upgrade be funded at £981, and the remaining 2 projects are both awarded 18.7 percent of their total project costs.

4. APPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The table in Appendix 1 of this report provides an objective scoring summary from the assessments made of all the applications by the Green Space Team, it also gives 2 options for the allocation of the remaining funding.

- 4.2 The assessment panel then determined grants to be allocated. This panel consisted of Ian Pinfold – Green Space Manager, Edwina Grant – Strategic and Community Planning Officer, Paul Scragg – Senior Green Space Officer.

- 4.3 The maximum amount of funding available to each group is £10,000. The grant will fund a maximum of 50% of the project costs. Each applicant must seek support from their ward Councillor. Only capital items are funded, 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.

#### 4.4 Summary of Applications.

##### 4.4.1 Emmaus Recycle and Reuse – Emmaus Leicestershire and Rutland (homeless charity).

Total cost of scheme: £20,854 Grant requested: £10,000 (De Montfort Ward) Supported by Councillors Hodgkins and Nichols.

Outline: The purchase of a new van, for the transfer of furniture and household goods, to replace their current van that is becoming old and unreliable.

Community catchment: Emmaus are based in Hinckley but the service carried out using the van will cover Hinckley and its surrounding area. It has been confirmed by the charity that 80% of their pickups using the van are within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

Community benefit: Emmaus are a homeless charity with their headquarters based in Hinckley, they provide homeless people with accommodation and also opportunities for people to improve their skills and overcome a loss of self-esteem. The van is used by staff, volunteers and companions to collect, deliver and transfer furniture and other domestic items between social enterprises, storage sites and customers. The charity also offers the wider community a collection, removal and recycling service, for unwanted household goods.

Recommended Grant - £3,900 (as 18.7 percent of total cost, see appendix 1)

##### 4.4.2 Timing and recording equipment – Hinckley Swimming Club. Supported by Councillor Bray.

Total Cost of scheme: £25,109 Grant requested: £10,000 (Castle Ward).

Outline: Specialist electronic starting, timing and recording equipment, to enable the club to hold competition events.

Community catchment: Hinckley Swimming Club will be based at the new leisure centre in Hinckley.

Community benefit: The club see the move to the new leisure centre as an opportunity to expand and the new equipment will enable the swimming club to hold competition events, in both swimming and water polo. They also hope to attract further members, and have indicated that the equipment will be available for use by other leisure centre users, local schools and other organisations.

Recommended Grant - £4,700 (as 18.7 percent of total cost, see appendix 1)

##### 4.4.3 IT Upgrade – West Leicestershire Mind.

Total Cost of scheme: £2,988. Grant requested: £1,494 (Castle Ward) supported by Councillor Witherford.

Outline: An upgrade to the charities IT system to provide a high level of service and data protection.

Community catchment: West Leicestershire Mind are based at Station Road, Hinckley, however they support people throughout Hinckley and Bosworth.

Community benefit: The organisation has indicated that they currently support 226 people with mental health issues and that the IT improvements will help with safeguarding of personal data, help to improve service delivery, and improve the working environment for staff and volunteers.

Recommended Grant - £981, this will cover 50% of the capital items in this scheme, as per the grant criteria. (maximum award which can be made within the terms of this fund).

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

5.1 The cost of new schemes of £9,581 and the amount already agreed of £10,419 will be funded from Special Expenses Reserves. The table below summaries the current reserves position:-

	£
Opening Balance 1/4/15	300,702
Use of Reserves - Revenue	44,139
Use of Reserves - Green Space Projects	55,032
<u>Estimated Closing Balance 31/3/16</u>	<u>201,531</u>

5.2 If the funding allocation is approved the estimated closing balance will reduce to £181,531.

5.3 SLB have approved these bids pending support from HAC.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [JB]

6.1 None.

## 7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Hinckley Community Initiative fund supports 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 Discussions were held with Hinckley Community Action in May to establish which groups may qualify for this funding, they also assisted with the distribution of information to local community groups and charities.

8.2 SLB recommended approval of this funding in their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

## 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
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 constituted community groups in Hinckley, Ward Councillor support is sought for each application.

10.2 Two of the grant applications are from charities working with vulnerable people. West Leicestershire Mind and Emmaus.

## 11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 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

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Background papers: Appendix 1 – Objective Scoring Summary and options for funding.

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Executive Member: Cllr Mark Nickerson – Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services

**APPENDIX 1 – HCIF allocation of grants 2015/2016**

Ward	Project	Applicant	Project cost Exc VAT	Amount applied for	Maximum eligible grant	Own Funding	Other sources of funding	Score (Average of two Assessors)	Recommended Grant	Conditions to be applied comments
De Montfort	Emmaus Recycle and Reuse	Emmaus Leicestershire and Rutland	£20,854	£10,000	£10,000	£5,035	£10,000 LCC Shire Grant (confirmed)	50.0	£3,900	Proportion of remaining funding budget has been recommended for allocation as a proportion of the total project cost. After discussion with applicant, the remaining funding can be found by the applicant to ensure the project goes ahead in line with the time scales of the grant.
Castle Ward	Timing and recording Equipment	Hinckley Swimming Club	£25,109	£10,000	£10,000	£14,000	£200 Sainsbury Community Grant and £2000 Post code community Trust (confirmed)	48.5	£4,700	Proportion of remaining funding budget has been recommended for allocation as a proportion of the total project cost. After discussion with applicant, the remaining funding can be found by the applicant to ensure the project goes ahead in line with the time scale of the grant.
Castle Ward	IT upgrade	West Leicestershire Mind	£2,988	£1,494	£1,494			48.0	£981.00	This will cover 50% of the total cost of the capital items in this scheme. As per the grant criteria.
Totals									£9,581	

