



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

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FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

SCRUTINY COMMISSION 10 August 2017

WARDS AFFECTED: RURAL PARISHES – specifically Market Bosworth and Markfield

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES FUND: ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

Report of Director Environment and Planning

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request Scrutiny Commission endorse the allocation of funding from the Developing Communities Fund to projects in Market Bosworth and Markfield.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Commission endorse the funding allocations identified in section 3 of the report through the Developing Communities Fund. Specifically:-
- 3.9: Market Bosworth Parish Council: 69% of phase 1 costs (to a maximum of £27,600).
 - 3.14: Markfield Parish Council: £178,000 towards Markfield Community Park

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 too 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.
- SLT agree funding amounts.

3.4 Project Team assessors were identified for each scheme and a full assessment has now been completed for two of the seven schemes. Project board met on 29 June 2017 and recommended funding the following two schemes:

**Market Bosworth Parish Council: Market place redevelopment
(Assessors: Caroline Roffey and Stephen Meynell)**

3.5 This project involves public realm improvements to the market place including the installation of Wi-Fi, CCTV, street furniture, electronic signage, car parking (including pay and display equipment) and hard and soft landscaping to create a safer and more attractive market town centre for all of the community. It is part of a wider range of works which the Parish Council are progressing with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) to improve traffic flow (a full one way system) and increase parking.

3.6 The project requires careful planning to ensure that works undertaken by the Parish Council and LCC are coordinated and complement each other, and are timed to minimise project costs and disruption. The Parish Council therefore proposes to undertake the project in phases:

Phase 1: Production of integrated design by suitably qualified professional for the market place including highways and public realm improvements, stakeholder engagement and consultation, and implementation options. Plan to be costed and identify which elements can / cannot be funded by the DCF.

Phase 2: Procurement.

Phase 3: Implementation.

3.7 **Project Costs:** The Parish Council estimates the public realm improvements will cost £247,000 and have applied for £100,000 funding towards this project. Funding at this stage is only recommended for phase 1 (estimate £30,000-£40,000) so full costs and specification for works can be identified to reduce risks during implementation of project. The funding formula for the DCF for Market Bosworth identifies that the parish should contribute a minimum of 31% of costs.

3.8 Further considerations:

- Market place ownership is not registered but MBPC have maintained the square for many years without challenge. Legal services identify this risk as minimal.
- Leader funding towards Wi-Fi granted by LCC - £10,000

- NDP adopted and identifies the improvements identified in this bid are required.
- Project plan identifies completion by April 2020.
- LCC are involved in developing proposals for highways improvements.
- Partnership proposed with HBBC for management of car parking.
- Assessors fully supported the phased approach proposed by the parish council as this provides mitigation of the risks associated with the project.
- Costs are estimates. Full tenders / quotes will need to be completed by the applicant to demonstrate value for money.
- The Parish Council already maintains the market square but will need to raise additional revenue to maintain the CCTV, Wi-Fi, etc. Car parking revenue, business contributions and increased parish precept will be considered to fund the ongoing maintenance.
- Clarification is required as to how the parish intends to fund the balance of £147,000. At present, it is not known where this funding is coming from. Before any funding for phase 2 is approved, this will need confirming.
- Clarification is also required that future revenue costs are affordable.
- The project will require permission to proceed as it is a conservation area. Conservation officer and LCC have not raised any objections to proposals at this stage.

- 3.9 The recommended grant is 69% of phase 1 costs (to a maximum of £27,600). Recommended that the parish confirm project costs / details once phase 1 complete. Once complete, a further decision can then be made regarding phase 2 funding. Phase 2 funding will require a separate decision by SLT and will also be referred to Scrutiny Commission for endorsement.

**Markfield Parish Council: Markfield Community Park
(Assessors: Paul Scragg and Caroline Roffey)**

- 3.10 This is a major enhancement of the village's principle open space adjacent to the Community Centre. The project will involve installing tarmac paths to improve access for all users, installing new seating, constructing a terrace area for the community centre, doubling the size of the MUGA (multi use games area) with lighting, resurfacing the basketball court with additional kick walls, the provision of an outdoor gym and drainage and landscaping works.
- 3.11 The site and equipment are all in the Parish Councils' ownership and therefore the risks are minimal although planning consent will be needed to increase the size of MUGA and lighting. A comprehensive site plan has been produced by a landscape architect.
- 3.12 **Project costs:** The Parish Council estimate that the project will cost £314,733 and they have applied for £178,000 funding from the DCF (this is the maximum eligible grant for Markfield based on the numbers of new houses). The project has £30,000 funding from Bardon quarry, £39,025 Section 106 (S106) funding received, and a further £4689 s106 identified (not yet received). The balance of £63,019 will be funded by the applicant from reserves and a public works board loan.

3.13 Further considerations:

- The Parish Council have committed to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- The Parish Council charges for use of the MUGA. Assessors recommend that HBBC (or HBBC nominated groups) be given 52 hours a year use of the MUGA free of charge to increase participation in sport.
- All costs are estimated and full quotes / tenders will need to be completed by the applicant.
- Assessors recommend that further consultation is held on the final plan for the site, and that the Parish Council provides free training sessions are provided to encourage use of the outdoor gym.
- The project is estimated for completion December 2019.
- The Parish Council already maintains this park and the existing facilities and intends to cover increased maintenance costs from its grounds maintenance budgets. Costs should be lower initially as new facilities will have warranties / require less maintenance.
- Details of how the parish intends to fund the £136,733 has been provided, but clarification is required as to whether the PWLB loan for £50,000 has been approved and also if the £30,000 funding from Bardon Quarry has been confirmed.
- Confirmation is also required that the parish can afford the loan repayments and the ongoing revenue costs.
- It is assured from their application that the parish can reclaim VAT.

3.14 The recommended grant is £178,000.

Other applications

3.15 Assessors are continuing to evaluate applications for funding from the following:

- **Barlestone Parish Council** – new village hall
- **Barwell Parish Council** – car parking / retail / office / community room
- **Burbage Parish Council** – village hall remodel / new changing rooms
- **Sheepy Magna, All Saints Church** – refurbishment of church.
- **Sport in Desford** – new sports court

It is intended that the assessments for these projects will be finalised during July / August 2017 and funding for these projects will be determined in September/October 2017. Scrutiny commission will be consulted.

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

4.1 This report will be taken in public.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [CS]

5.1 The existing capital programme sets aside £700,000 in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 (£1,400.00 in total) for the DCR scheme. £38,013 has since been approved to be vired to the Parish and Community Initiatives Fund, leaving a revised DCF budget of £1,361,987.

Approving payments of £27,600 and £178,000 will leave a balance of £1,156,387.

- 5.2 For all schemes, 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.
- 5.3 The Council will only reimburse parishes once an invoice is received which provides evidence and a breakdown of the expenditure incurred.
- 5.4 It is likely that the delivery of schemes funded under the DCF will take longer than two years set aside in the capital programme, with the amounts not being utilised as currently profiled. This will be considered as part of the review of the capital programme for 2017/18.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The fund supports the prosperity aim: Support our rural communities. The Market Bosworth project also meets the aim of supporting regeneration of our town centres and villages and inspiring standards of urban design that create attractive places to live.

The Markfield project specifically meets the aim to protect and improve our parks and open spaces for everyone across the Borough.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Both these projects have undertaken some consultation as part of developing their scheme and both will undertake further consultation prior to implementation.

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
Inadequate governance	Project Team and Project Board established and to continue for duration of fund.	Rob Parkinson
	One named assessor to be responsible for overseeing grant payments / implementation of project	Markfield – Paul Scragg Market Bosworth – Caroline Roffey
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.	Caroline Roffey / Paul Scragg
Inadequate consideration of users needs	Further consultation prior to / as part of implementation of projects	Caroline Roffey / Paul Scragg

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.

10.3 Both applicants have undertaken some consultation during the development of their project and will undertake further consultation as part of the implementation of their projects.

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

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

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