



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission                      16 March 2023

Wards affected:                              All Wards

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### Parish and Hinckley Community Initiative Fund Allocation of Grants 2023/24

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Report of Director of (Corporate Services)

#### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To request that Scrutiny Commission endorses the allocation of the Parish and Community Initiative Fund and Hinckley Community Initiative Fund 2023/24.

#### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the Scrutiny Commission endorses the funding allocations of £90,383 for 21 schemes as detailed in section 3.3.

2.2 That the Scrutiny Commission supports rejecting 14 applications on the basis that they have not scored 50 or above or have not met the necessary grant criteria.

2.4 That the Scrutiny Commission supports the recommendation to review the fund this summer to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the PCIF as detailed in 3.4

2.5 That the Scrutiny Commission supports allowing 8 previous years schemes to be completed and continue to be funded as detailed in section 3.5

#### **3. Background to the report**

3.1 Since 2005 the Parish Community Initiative Fund and Hinckley Community Initiative Fund have distributed over £1,767,000 towards 441 local parishes` or voluntary organisation` schemes.

3.2 In 2022/23 the scheme received 34 applications from across the Borough and a total of £112,007 was awarded to 30 schemes.

### 3.3 Applications for 2023/24:

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, 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, Edwina Grant – Strategic and Community Planning Officer, 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 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. Each application has been scored individually against the criteria by 2 officers and an average score given. Applications that have scored under 50 have been recommended for rejection as agreed in the funding review report to senior officers and members in 2020.

35 applications have been received requesting a total of £122,552.

Based on the information in Appendix 1 the assessment panel recommends funding the following schemes totalling £90,383. This includes £2,385 for HCIF schemes. (Applications are set out in alphabetical order by parish and parish name is given in brackets).

This year we have included whether we consider to this to be a new facility, an improvement, a repair or replacement.

1. Improvement works at Thornton Recreation Ground – Bagworth & Thornton Parish Council (Bagworth and Thornton). Improvement.  
Outline: The resurfacing of the play area and improvements to the footpath at Thornton recreation ground. £3,012. Repair
2. New Footpath at Boston Road Park – Barwell Parish Council (Barwell)  
Outline: The reinstatement and resurfacing of the footpath at Boston Road Park to ensure it meets health and safety standards. £1,175 Repair
3. New water bowser – Barwell Bloomers (Barwell). Outline: A new water bowser to assist with watering for Barwell in Bloom. £1,295. New
4. New Shelter at Cemetery – Market Bosworth Parish Council (Market Bosworth)  
Outline: The installation of a new shelter at Market Bosworth Cemetery. £2,967. New

5. New Footpath – Burbage parish Council (Burbage)  
Outline: The installation of a new footpath at Sketchley Hill Farm recreation ground to improve access. £12,000. New
6. New Play area – Cadeby Community Development Trust (Cadeby)  
Outline: The installation of a new play area for the village. £12,000. New (NB applicant doesn't currently own the land and are awaiting confirmation of lottery funding to enable its purchase).
7. New Water Bowser – Desford in Bloom (Desford)  
Outline: A new water bowser to assist with watering for Desford in Bloom. £558. New
8. Refurbishment of Church Community Hall – St Martin's Church Centre Hall Committee (Desford)  
Outline: The replacement of two doors and the reconfiguration of the foyer area to make it useable by different community groups. £5,285. Improvement
9. Solar Panels – Desford Free Church (Desford)  
Outline: The installation of solar panels at Desford Free Church. £5,158. Improvement (Energy Saving)
10. New Audio System – Botcheston Village Hall Committee (Desford)  
Outline: To improve the sound quality of Botcheston Village Hall's sound system by replacement/upgrade of the existing 4 Speakers and Amplifier. £999. Improvement
11. Solar Panels – Groby Parish Council (Groby)  
Outline: The installation of solar panels at the workings hut at Groby Cemetery. £1,310 Improvement (Energy Saving)
12. Irrigation system – Sweetpea Bowling Club (Hinckley Castle)  
Outline: A new irrigation system for the bowling club. £2,385. Improvement \*
13. Information boards and heritage signs – Peckleton parish Council (Peckleton)  
Outline: The installation of information boards telling the history of Kirkby Mallory. £673. New
14. Tree Planting – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)  
Outline: The planting of trees at Kirkby Mallory recreation ground to commemorate the Queen. £468. New
15. Play area improvements– Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)  
Outline: The installation of a new slide at Stapleton Recreation Ground. £2,360. New
16. Shackerstone Village Walks – Shackerstone Parish Council (Shackerstone)  
Outline: The installation of five new interpretation panels about walks within the parish. £11,389. New

17. Play Area Improvements – Sheepy Playing Fields Association (Sheepy)  
Outline: resurfacing of children’s play area in Sheepy Magna. £9,286. Improvement.
18. New Disabled Toilet – Without Walls Christian Fellowship (Stanton under Bardon)  
Outline: Refurbishment of existing toilets including the provision of a new disabled toilet within the building. £8,250. Improvement
19. Enhanced Planting around the Village – Sutton Cheney Parish Council (Sutton Cheney)  
Outline: Planting around the 4 gateway areas across the village of Sutton Cheney. £210. New (Environmental)
20. Village Hall Renovation – Twycross Village Hall (Twycross)  
Outline: Redecoration of stage area and repainting of kitchen and fire doors and blinds for 4x windows. £372. Improvements.
21. Heating and Lighting Improvements – DCC Orton-on-the-Hill (Twycross)  
Outline: The installation of a new heating system and new energy saving LED lighting at St Edith’s Church, Orton-on-the-Hill. £9,231. Improvements (energy saving).  
*\*Hinckley CIF schemes funded from Special Expenses total £2,385*

3.4 The assessment panel noted a reduction in the quality of schemes/ applications; an increase in applications for smaller amounts and for replacement / repairs rather than for new projects; and no significant increase in carbon reduction projects to respond to the climate emergency. The panel therefore recommend the scheme is reviewed in the next few months and a proposal brought forward to reshape the fund to improve both its efficiency and effectiveness at delivering council priorities within local communities.

### 3.5 Previous Years` Applications

There are 8 applications totalling £35,568, which were approved in 2021 and 2022 where the projects have been delayed. This includes £7,108 for HCIF schemes. These projects will be completed in 2023/24. The projects are:

1. Thornton Football pitch renovation – Bagworth and Thornton Parish Council (Bagworth and Thornton)  
Outline: The renovation of the football pitch at Thornton recreation ground and installation of a second set of goal posts. £1,923.
2. Green and Warm project – Westfield Community Centre (Hinckley Clarendon)  
Outline: Refurbishments to the pre-school building including a new entrance door, window improvements and the removal and replacement of cladding and fascia boards. £7,108.
3. Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs – Peckleton Parish Council (Peckleton)

Outline: The installation of a mobile vehicle activated sign in Kirkby Mallory. £2,000.

4. New community signage – Sheepy Parish Council (Sheepy)  
Outline: The installation of a new interpretation/tourism sign. £3,608 (Further carry forward from 2021 funding, delays in obtaining the necessary licence from LCC for installation on highways land permission now granted project due for completion April 2023).
5. New drainage works – Stoke Golding Parish Council (Stoke Golding)  
Outline: The installation of new drainage at Wykin Lane Cemetery, to improve surface water drainage to the site. £3,013.
6. New internal porch – St Margaret’s Church (Stoke Golding)  
Outline: The installation of an oak framed double glazed interior porch. £5,358.
7. Shenton lighting – Sutton Cheney Parish Council (Sutton Cheney)  
Outline: The conversion of 4 heritage lights in Shenton to more energy efficient LED lanterns. £558.
8. St Edith’s Church repairs – DCC of Orton on the Hill (Twycross)  
Outline: Essential stonework, plaster, window and ceiling repairs to the church. £12,000.

A further 2 further projects totalling £7,503 - Streetlight improvement schemes at Sutton Cheney and Peckleton have been completed, however the applicants have agreed to pay the contractor over a 5 year period. It has therefore been agreed that these grants will also be paid over a 5 year period on receipt of an invoice from the contractor. Outstanding amounts for these 2 applications are Sutton Cheney £2,679 and Peckleton £4,824.

*\*\*Hinckley CIF schemes funded from Special Expenses total £7,108*

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

- 4.1 This report will be taken in open session.

#### **5. Financial implications IB**

- 5.1 The £90,383 allocation for 2023/24 will be funded from £150,000 set aside in the capital programme.
- 5.2 For 2022/23 schemes, £35,568 will be carried forward to fund the delayed projects.

#### **6. Legal implications MR**

- 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.

8.2 A review of the scheme was carried out in 2020 and a number of amendments were agreed.

## 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

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Background papers: Appendix 1 attached

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Executive member: Cllr M Cartwright – Executive Member for Rural Affairs

## 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
Thornton Playground Improvement Scheme 2023	Bagworth & Thornton	£3,334	£6,688	£3,344	PS/IP	53	£3,012. Fund capital items only play area and footpath resurfacing
Replacement of Refrigerator for the Storage of Vaccines	Barlestone	£268	£537	£643	PS/IP	44.5	Not a constituted group and didn't score above 50.
Boston Park Footpath	Barwell	£1,590	£3,180	£1,590	PS/IP	50	£1,175 Based on lowest quote
Covid Memorial Bench	Barwell	£296	£593	£296	PS/IP	46	Didn't score above 50
Flag Pole For Village	Barwell	£1,047	£2,095	£1,047	PS/IP	45.5	Didn't score above 50
Water Bowser	Barwell	£1,295	£2,589	£1,295	PS/IP	62	£1,295
Market Bosworth Cemetery Shelter	Market Bosworth	£4,912	£9,825	£4,912	PS/IP	56	£2,967. Based on lowest quote
Sketchley Hill Farm Footpath Extension Project	Burbage	£12,000	£37,800	£12,000	PS/IP	59	£12,000
Cadeby Parish Play Area	Cadeby	£12,000	£45,600	£12,000	PS/IP	55	12,000. Land currently not under applicants ownership. Award subject to successful lottery application and confirmation of ownership.
Carlton Play area Upgrade	Carlton	£645	£1,290	£645	PS/IP	56	Maintenance.
Carlton Church Gate Lamp Project	Carlton	£150	£300	£150	PS/IP	42.5	Didn't score above 50
Heritage Bus Shelter Replacement Programme - Manor Road Desford	Desford	£12,000	£34,682	£10,000	PS/IP	50.5	Project was completed and paid for in December 2022 before deadline date for applications. No retrospective funding awarded.
Watering of Desford in Bloom Baskets	Desford	£558	£1,116	£558	PS/IP	62	£558
Refurbishment of Church Centre Foyer & Provision of New Secure Doors	Desford	£6,360	£12,720	£6,360	PS/IP	51	£5,285 Total reduced because lowest scoring application in Desford to keep Parish total to agreed £12,000.
Solar Panels & Destratification Fans for Desford Free Church	Desford	£5,158	£10,315	£6,244	PS/IP	58.5	£5,158
Consultation for Decarbonising Heating at SiD	Desford	£1,710	£3,420	£3,420	PS/IP	44	Didn't score above 50. Finance have confirmed consultancy fees not classed as a capital project.
Botcheston Village Hall Community Cinema Sound System Upgrade	Desford	£999	£1,998	£1,998	PS/IP	58	£999
Installation of Metal Security Fencing along Allotments & Public Footpath Boundary	Grobby	£3,850	£7,700	£3,850	PS/IP	49	Didn't score above 50.



Solar Panels	Groby	£3,145	£6,291	£3,145	PS/IP	58.5	£1,310 based on lowest quote.
Automatic Irrigation System for Refurbished Bowling Green	Hinckley Castle Ward	£2,385	£4,470	£2,385	PS/IP	51	£2,385
New Park Benches	Newbold Verdon	£784	£1,568	£1,000	PS/IP	47	Didn't score above 50
Information Board/Heritage Sign for Kirkby Mallory	Peckleton	£673	£1,345	£672	PS/IP	52	£673
Trees to form copses at Recreation Grounds	Peckleton	£511	£1,022	£511	PS/IP	52	£468 based on lowest quote
Slide for Stapleton Recreation Ground	Peckleton	£2,741	£5,482	£2,741	PS/IP	50	£2,360 based on lowest quote
Peckleton Guide	Peckleton	£787	£1,574	£774	PS/IP	46.5	Didn't score above 50. Printing of a leaflet.
Peckleton Holts Rock	Peckleton	£801	£1,602	£722	PS/IP	37.5	Didn't score above 50
The Shackerstone Parish Gopsall Villages Walks	Shackerstone	£11,389	£22,778	£12,000	PS/IP	53	£11,389. Only 1 quote provided for signs. No quotes provided for installation. Subject to further quotes.
Purchase & Installation of Garden Boundary Fence	Sheepy	£1,100	£2,200	£1,100	PS/IP	46.5	Didn't score above 50
Re-Surfacing of Childrens Play Area - Sheepy Playing Field	Sheepy	£9,286	£18,572	£9,286	PS/IP	65	£9,286
Construct New Disabled Toilet in Building	Stanton-under-Bardon	£8,250	£16,500	£8,250	PS/IP	50	£8,250. Check building regs requirement.
Plaques for Planters	Sutton Cheney	£230	£460	£230	PS/IP	43	Didn't score above 50
Enhanced Planting around the Village	Sutton Cheney	£210	£420	£230	PS/IP	60	£210. Environmental scheme
Dadlington Bench and Gateway Project	Sutton Cheney	£952	£1,905	£757	PS/IP	42.5	Didn't score above 50
Twycross Village Hall Renovation	Twycross	£371	£743	£371	PS/IP	60	£372
St Ediths Church - Building Repair	Twycross	£12,000	£25,231	£9,231	PS/IP	51	£9,231 only 1 quote received. 2 x further like for like quotes required.