

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 January 2021
Subject:	Community Funding Grant Scheme / Section 106 Panel
Report of:	Head of Development Services
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Community
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

At the Executive Committee on 18 November 2020, the Committee approved the withdrawal of the £57,700 grant offer to Wormington Village Society.

This report outlines a new Community Funding Grants scheme as a way forward to allocate these funds for future community projects and proposes refining the composition of the S106 Panel.

Recommendation:

- 1. To approve the creation of a Community Grants Scheme.**
- 2. To delegate the development of the scheme to the Head of Development Services and the Head of Finance and Asset Management, including the formation of criteria and the consultation process to be undertaken to allocate the grants.**
- 3. To approve an amendment to the composition of the S106 Panel and consultation process as set out in Paragraph 3.2 of the report.**

Reasons for Recommendation:

To enable the residual community funding sum to be allocated appropriately in the local community and ensure the process involving the S106 Panel provides an effective mechanism for distribution of both funding streams.

Resource Implications:

The £57,700 is funded from capital reserves and sits within the capital programme as committed to supporting Community Schemes.

Legal Implications:

The Head of Development Services should ensure that appropriate terms and conditions are attached to the award of grant monies under the Community Grants Scheme.

Risk Management Implications:

None at this stage.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Outcomes will be reported through the Council's performance tracker.

Environmental Implications:

None at this stage.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 At the November 2020 Executive Committee, the Members approved the withdrawal of the £57,700 grant that was awarded to Wormington Village Society in 2013. The Grant was awarded by the Community Grants Working Group, which has since been disbanded.

2.0 COMMUNITY GRANTS

2.1 There is no clear procedure in place regarding the spend of £57,700 towards community projects. Therefore, to enable the money to be spent effectively, the Council would benefit from a transparent process to assist Members in allocating the funds. This report recommends creating a time limited Community Grants scheme, that would enable the £57,700 to be allocated to appropriate community projects. The funds available are for capital schemes only.

2.2 If the Committee decides that a community grants scheme is the correct way forward, relevant criteria needs to be in place by which decisions will be made. Scheme criteria would be developed along the similar lines to the Council's previous Community Funding programme. This would focus on community benefit and maximising the impact on the Borough's residents. This would also include supporting the voluntary and community sector and ensuring projects complement the Council's corporate priorities, supporting activities and projects that contribute to the health, wellbeing and social interaction of the wider community. The funding scheme would be managed and co-ordinated through the Council's Community Funding Officer.

2.3 To enable the funds to be spent efficiently and promptly, it is envisaged that projects would be eligible if they are in the latter stages of development and have a high likelihood of delivery.

2.4 Once a criteria is developed, it would be promoted through Members and the community. To enable the grants to be awarded, a Member consultation process would need to be in place which could be via the S106 Panel.

2.5 Within the Constitution, the authority to allocate community grants rests with the Head of Development Services but that delegation could be exercised in consultation with the S106 Panel as is the case with the allocation of S106 funds for community groups.

3.0 COMPOSITION OF THE S106 PANEL

3.1 In July 2018 the Executive Committee agreed the composition of the Panel as follows:

Lead Member for Community.

Lead Member for Built Environment.

Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management.

Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Local Member(s).

3.2 To date, only the local Members in whose area the S106 monies were generated have been invited to the Panel but this has caused some concern amongst those Members in whose area the applications for the funding have been generated. Clearly it is important that the views of all Members involved are considered without it becoming an unwieldy process, particularly bearing in mind that this could also include Members from other authorities as applications are made from groups based in other local authority areas but operate within the Borough, and the Panel acts in a consultative role only as the delegation to make the decision rests with the Head of Development Services. It is therefore suggested that the composition of the Panel be amended to include the Leader of the Council but rather than inviting local Members to attend the Panel, all Members (to include those Members in whose area the S106 monies were generated and those where the applications for the funding have come from) will be asked for their views which will be provided to the Panel as part of the consideration process. This will ensure the membership of the Panel is kept at an effective level but the views of all interested parties are considered.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The funding could remain in capital reserves and the Council wait for proposals for the funding to be submitted. However, this would mean there would not be a clear criteria by which to judge proposals effectively.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1 The Council Plan.

7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

7.1 None.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

8.1 Staff resources will be required to set up, co-ordinate and administer the funding scheme.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

9.1 The impact of the funding would positively influence community projects and initiatives, and therefore benefit residents.

10.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

10.1 None at this stage.

11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

11.1 Executive Committee 18 November 2020.

Background Papers: Executive Committee 18 November 2020.

Contact Officer: Community and Economic Development Manager Tel: 01684 272094
Email: andy.sanders@tewkesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: None.