

Agenda Item No: 7

INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND RECOMMENDED INNOVATE APPLICATIONS

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **7 March 2019**

From: **Sarah Ferguson: Assistant Director, Housing,
Communities and Youth**

Electoral division(s): **ALL**

Forward Plan ref: **For key decisions** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: To provide the Communities and Partnership Committee with the outcome of the 1 March 2019 Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel.

Recommendation: Communities and Partnership Committee is asked to consider recommendations of the panel and confirm agreement to fund six applications through the Innovate funding stream (2.3 in the report and **Appendix 1**).

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Innovation Fund was initially launched in November 2016. A review and refresh of the fund was carried out the following year resulting in the current Innovate and Cultivate Fund as agreed by Communities and Partnership Committee on 24 August 2017.

1.2 The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire and public sector bodies in Cambridgeshire to realise their projects and ideas that help address the needs of local residents.

1.3 There are two funding streams:

- **Cultivate:** grants of £2,000-£19,000 aimed at encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other. This is a single stage application process, where Communities and Partnership Committee consider the final recommendations of the panel before confirming award.

- **Innovate:** grants of up to £50,000, for larger projects that demonstrate an innovative approach. This is a two-stage application process where applicants present a more detailed logic model, delivery and budget plan to the panel as part of the second stage, after which Communities and Partnership Committee consider the final recommendations of the panel before confirming award.

1.4 All applicants to the fund are required to demonstrate a number of stated criteria including the following key criteria:

- how their project will help to deliver one or more of the County Council's key outcomes,
- show they will reduce pressure on council services and/or offer direct savings for the council, be either new, or build on an existing project in a new location or with new beneficiaries.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 On 7th January the Recommendation Panel considered project proposals to the Innovate Funding stream and as a result of their careful consideration, invited six applicants to submit a stage 2 application to the fund.

2.2 Each of the second stage applications were carefully considered in full by the Recommendation Panel on 1 March 2019. In accordance with Committee decision of 24 August 2017, the Panel is made up of two County Council Service or Assistant Directors, Chief Finance Officer, a senior officer involved in managing the fund, a trustee of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and five elected members from the Communities and Partnership Committee.

2.3 The outcome of the panel is that six applications to the Innovate Fund have been recommended for funding and are reported to this Committee for final decision, namely:

- Royal Mencap Society
- The Prospects Trust
- Thera East Anglia of Thera Trust
- Lifecraft
- Huntingdon Town Council
- Pinpoint CIO

A summary of each of the recommended Innovate Fund applications is detailed in **Appendix 1** attached.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The focus of the Fund is supporting people to live healthy and independent lives. It focuses upon the most vulnerable groups and enables a locally delivered approach which improves the outcomes for our citizens and communities, as well as to prevent and delay demand for statutory intervention.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

The Fund affords opportunities for individuals and communities to develop their skills and resilience to undertake initiatives that improve and enable independence, health and well-being.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

A key focus of the Fund is to enhance delivery against this priority e.g. where the support of the voluntary and community sector could make a real difference to the lives of children and families, providing opportunities for the whole population to succeed and to enable improved outcomes.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The resource implications are contained within the body of the report

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

Although grants are exempt from procurement regulations, procurement advice has been taken on the grant application process and member involvement in recommending bids for award and final decision of award.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Legal advice has been taken in the setting up of this Fund and in the creation of the grant application and monitoring process.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The focus of this Fund on supporting the most vulnerable will mean this investment will make a positive contribution to issues of equality.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The plans for engagement and communication of this Fund are as agreed at 8th November 2019 Committee.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Community empowerment sits at the heart of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund which enhances the opportunity for local community organisations to bid for projects which harness the energy of their community.

Members play a key role in considering each application on its own merits and against the fund criteria. The Communities and Partnership Committee receive recommendations for funding from the Recommendation Panel.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The Innovate and Cultivate Fund affords opportunities for individuals and communities to develop their skills and resilience to undertake initiatives that improve health and well-being. The approved projects also support interventions to support those most vulnerable to prevent their health and wellbeing needs escalating and service needs increasing.

Implications	Officer Clearance
<p>Communities and Partnership Committee on 17 January 2019 agreed that officer clearance for future reports of this type would not be necessary, given that the content was always repeated except for the information on the actual applications being recommended for funding.</p>	

Source Documents	Location
<p>Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Innovate and Cultivate Fund application forms and guidance.</p>	<p>Application Form: https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/ICF</p> <p>Guidance: https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html</p>

Innovate and Cultivate Fund

Innovate Fund applications recommended by the panel to the Communities and Partnership Committee for final decision.

Applicant and Project Name	Project Description	Amount of funding requested
<p>Royal Mencap Society</p> <p>Employ Me Cambridgeshire</p>	<p>To work with adults aged 16+ who have a learning disability, difficulty, or autistic spectrum disorders (LDD/ASD) to deliver a pre-traineeship and employability programme. This will include two age groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDD/ASD people aged 16-24: pre-traineeship programme • LDD/ASD people aged 25+, employment support programme <p>The project will offer a high level of support to people with LDD/ASD to support the younger cohort to get them ready to take part in an existing employability training programme and move into paid work, and support the older cohort to move straight into paid work.</p> <p>The programme of study for both age groups will be similar and will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment to determine people's existing skills levels and gaps - Action planning/ goal setting: traineeship or paid employment are preferred goals for every participant - Employability skills workshops eg CV building; health and safety, problem solving, timekeeping, following instructions, customer care and team working. - Interview skills training including mock interviews both on a group generic basis and on a 1-1 basis in preparation for actual interviews. - travel training to ensure people can get to work and access the community. - Work experience placement - Traineeship matching with local employers - Job search for those in either age group who want to move directly into paid work <p>The project will support 20 LDD/ASD people over the year, with 8 of them moving into paid work, and 4 young people moving into traineeships following the programme.</p>	<p>£50,000</p>

<p>The Prospects Trust</p> <p>Prospects Trust Unwrapped & The Barn at LuvEly</p>	<p>The Prospects Trust is a social enterprise that works with people with learning difficulties and/or experience mental ill health (co-workers). The trust is based at Snakehall Farm, an 18 acre organic market garden situated between Swaffham Prior and Reach. The Trust delivers accredited training, work and volunteer opportunities in horticulture and organic market gardening.</p> <p>This project will convert a shop unit within The Lighthouse Church into Ely's first Zero Waste Farm Food Shop. It will train people with additional needs to serve customers, prepare food orders, grocery hampers, maintain the shop front and provide a light cafe service of mainly seasonal produce from Snakehall Farm.</p> <p>The project co-workers will also work with the Lighthouse Centre to offer daily Food Waste Meal Clubs for the elderly, families on low or reduced income and people excluded due to their health and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The target group is the younger age range of adults with EHC plan or SEN statements, transitioning from education but not yet ready for mainstream employment. The work experience will enable co-workers to be fully employable, reducing reliance on CCC care packages.</p>	<p>£50,000</p>
<p>Thera East Anglia of Thera Trust</p> <p>My Way - Supported Employment Project</p>	<p>To support people with a learning disability into paid and/or voluntary employment in East Cambs and Fenland. The project will deliver:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learner Identification. A Job Coach will liaise with provider, carer and other disability groups to identify adults with a learning disability who are interested in exploring employment opportunities. 2. Vocational Profile. The Job Coach will work with beneficiaries on a 1:1 basis to complete a Vocational Profile to explore a person's strengths, interests and support needs to identify a suitable job/pathway. 3. Development Needs. Using the Vocational Profile, the Job Coach will identify a person's developmental needs and strategies to address them. 4. Supporting Applications. The Coach will support people with completing/submitting applications and attending interviews. This also includes engaging employers around the potential for employment, including support with 'Access to Work' grants from the DWP to make necessary adjustments to support disability-related needs. 5. In-Work Support. Once people have secured employment, the Job Coach will offer on-going in-work support. 	<p>£41,945.87</p>

	This project will work in strategic partnership with other Supported Employment Practitioners including Royal Mencap Society and The Prospects Trust.	
Lifecraft Lifecraft 'Let's Go!	<p>Lifecraft provides self help and mutual support for those with mental and physical health & well-being needs. The project will provide one-to-one motivational support and coaching for disadvantaged and vulnerable adults to enhance their employability or eligibility for volunteering roles. One-to-one support for beneficiaries will continue for up to 9 months after they have obtained placements or employment, to support retention and maintain good employability skills and habits.</p> <p>Project outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More volunteering opportunities fostered and taken up • More training experiences secured & engaged with • More work experience opportunities • More people having greater confidence in moving from benefit dependency, with appropriate advice and support in place • More people able to self-motivate and address their own employability • More pro-disability employer relationships put into place • Involvement of charities/businesses providing Volunteer placements and/or employability opportunities will generate greater understanding of disability issues & understanding of mental ill health, as well as recovery. 	£49,080
Huntingdon Town Council Supporting Older People	<p>To expand the Oxmoor Friendship Club for older people to incorporate healthy eating, exercise, health related issues, raising awareness on vital topics and decreasing social isolation, by working in partnership with other key organisations. The group currently consists of 40 people over the age of 65 who attend a weekly bingo session. The project will expand on that offer by offering a healthy lunch and providing information and support sessions to up to 100 people per week, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District nurse administering the flu jab, blood tests etc • Link in with the NHS to look at someone to come in a check blood pressure, diabetes, etc • Weekly exercise class • Fire safety advice, scam awareness sessions etc. • Craft sessions, singing sessions • Carer support sessions • Visits with school children <p>This project enhances a popular support group which will further enable older people to live independently and happily for</p>	£50,000

	<p>longer in their local communities- reducing, delaying and preventing the need to access social care support. It aligns with, and should deliver on the core demand management and prevention programmes across Cambridgeshire.</p>	
<p>Pinpoint CIO Pinpoint Champions Programme</p>	<p>Pinpoint is an information, support and parental involvement network run for parents by parents in Cambridgeshire, with a focus on parents and carers of children with additional needs or disabilities. This is a pilot project that will train parent-volunteers as Pinpoint champions within their school settings to provide an accessible, on-site, timely, inclusive signposting service for parents about appropriate services and support for children with special educational or other additional needs. It will initially take place in a small number of nursery settings and primary and secondary schools in a local cluster, followed by a staged roll out across the county in subsequent years using the sustainable model devised by the pilot.</p> <p>The project will also engage with schools, helping them work better and earlier with parent carers –facilitating better communication and relationships to reduce conflict and increase confidence in SEN Support services.</p> <p>This projects helps to deliver on the new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SEND Strategy that promotes early identification matched with appropriate early support and access to services. This approach leads to better educational outcomes and mental health and well-being and is directly linked to better lifelong outcomes for children and young people. This has a financial benefit and reduces the need for more expensive, intensive services and in lifelong support needs.</p>	<p>£47,099.88</p>