

Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations

- To: Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee
- Meeting Date: 21 March 2024
- From: Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships
- Electoral division(s): Abbey, Melbourn and Bassingbourn, Ramsey and Bury, Sawtry and Stilton, Soham South and Haddenham, Wisbech East, Wisbech West, Histon and Impington, Gamlingay, Somersham and Earith, Huntingdon West, Warboys and The Stukeleys and Cambourne.
- Key decision: Yes
- Forward Plan ref: 2024/004
- Executive Summary: To provide the committee with the outcome of the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund Recommendation Panel.
- Recommendation: The committee is recommended to:
- a) Agree to fund the following fifteen applications to the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund:
 - i) Abbey People CIO
 - ii) Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council
 - iii) Bury Parish Council
 - iv) Glatton Village Hall
 - v) Little Thetford Village Hall
 - vi) Olive Academies
 - vii) Orchard Park Community Primary School
 - viii) Orwell Parish Council
 - ix) People and Animals CIC
 - x) Somersham Parish Council
 - xi) The Commemoration Hall Charity
 - xii) The Ferry Project
 - xiii) The Ramsey Community Centre Trust
 - xiv) Warboys Parish Council
 - xv) Wysing Arts Centre
 - b) Delegate the responsibility to allocate any remaining funds to applications scoring 75 and above to the Executive Director for Strategy and Partnerships, in consultation with the Chair and

Vice-Chair of the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee.

Officer contact:

Name: Jill Buckingham

Post: Head of Communities

Email: Jill.buckingham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

1.1 This report relates to all seven of the Council's ambitions, as set out in the Strategic Framework.

1.2 All applications to the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund (the fund) were required to evidence how their proposals would support the Council to achieve its vision of becoming a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire through the delivery of at least three of the following ambitions:

- Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes.
- Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable.
- Health inequalities are reduced.
- People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs.
- People are helped out of poverty and income inequality.
- Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.
- Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.

2. Background

2.1 On 18 May 2023, the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee approved proposals relating to the criteria and application process for capital bids to the fund.

2.2 The total fund available for allocation was understood to be £1,000,000. However, this is now subject to confirmation of allocations to earlier awards in 2020 being finalised. For this bidding round, applicants could apply for a maximum grant of £40,000.

2.3 Applications to the fund were via a two-stage process:

- Stage one - expressions of interest
- Stage two - a full application.

2.4 The fund opened for expressions of interest for a 12-week period from 28 June 2023. In total, 157 expressions of interest were received and assessed against a set of eligibility criteria previously approved by the Committee in May 2023. Over 85% of the expressions of interest submitted passed the eligibility criteria and were invited to submit a full application.

2.5 The full application window opened for a 10-week period at the start of October 2023, closing on 15 December 2023. All eligible applicants were encouraged to access support from the Communities service and were invited to attend one of three online presentations

about the process. In November 2023, officers from the Communities service contacted all applicants by telephone to check if any support was required.

- 2.6 In total, 93 full applications were received.
- 2.7 All applications were scored out of a maximum 100. While establishing the application process, the Committee agreed that a minimum score of 80 must be achieved in order to be recommended for funding.
- 2.8 Applications were assessed against the following criteria:
 - statutory compliance (maximum 30 points)
 - value for money (maximum 20 points)
 - the seven ambitions (maximum 30 points)
 - community involvement (maximum 20 points).
- 2.9 Officers from the following service areas developed a scoring matrix in relation to their area of expertise and proposed scoring relevant to each criterion for moderation and scrutiny at the recommendation panel:
 - statutory compliance – Property service
 - value for money – Finance team
 - the seven ambitions – Climate team, Public Health, the Household Advice and Support Team, Care Together and the Communities service
 - community involvement – the Communities service.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 This report provides a list of bids recommended for funding to the committee.
- 3.2 A summary of each of the applications recommended for funding is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The recommendation panel met on 5 February 2024 to review and score applications.
- 3.4 The outcome of the panel meeting was that the following fifteen applications, which all scored over 80, are recommended for funding:
 - i) Abbey People CIO
 - ii) Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council
 - iii) Bury Parish Council
 - iv) Glatton Village Hall
 - v) Little Thetford Village Hall
 - vi) Olive Academies
 - vii) Orchard Park Community Primary School
 - viii) Orwell Parish Council
 - ix) People and Animals CIC
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 - xi) The Commemoration Hall Charity
 - xii) The Ferry Project
 - xiii) The Ramsey Community Centre Trust

- xiv) Warboys Parish Council
- xv) Wysing Arts Centre

- 3.5 If the fifteen applications recommended within section 3.4 of this report are approved, the total committed would be £582,929, leaving a further £417,071 of available funds.
- 3.6 The Council will review the remainder of the fund following some due diligence concerning an application to the previous Communities Capital Fund dating back to 2020, which may have a claim on these remaining funds. If after this work is complete there is money left to allocate, it is recommended that the responsibility to decide to support applications to the current scheme that scored 75+ be delegated to the Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee.
- 3.8 As agreed by the Committee in May 2023, applications approved for funding will receive funding payments in line with the Grants to External Organisations Policy at the point of agreed milestones being met. Milestones will be agreed on a case-by-case basis and linked to measures of contribution to ambitions and/or delivery of works and confirmed in the grant paperwork at the point of award.
- 3.9 The Council reserves the right to delay payment or request repayment if the project milestones are not met. Failure to initiate approved projects by the agreed date will mean the funding will be terminated; and applications cannot be re-submitted. All projects must commence within six months of funding being awarded, and failure to do so will result in a termination of funding.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 N/A – This report makes final recommendations regarding bids to the fund that was previously approved by the Committee in May 2023.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The committee is recommended to approve the applications detailed in section three of this report for funding and to delegate the decision to award any remaining funds to bids scoring 75 and over to the Executive Director for Strategy and Partnerships in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee.

6. Significant Implications

6.1 Finance Implications

Funding was previously approved for the scheme by the committee in May 2023. Alongside this there is a previous commitment that could also be drawn from this fund. As such, the awards as set out in this report from the fund maybe fully committed and a small pressure exist, thus there is a need to assess the ability to fund any overruns if any arise. That is far from certain and at this stage the full extent of pressures, whilst less than £0.1 million, are

not clear and further due diligence is required. Any need for further reserves draw down would only be considered after that is complete. If following due diligence there is no pressure and indeed a surplus still to allocate then this will be done so under delegation to fully commit this fund. This will then be reported back to Committee.

Through the application process, officers have ensured there are no future revenue or capital costs to the Council in any form from the projects recommended for funding.

The Council reserves the right to assess that the applicants have achieved value for money through their own procurement processes.

6.2 Legal Implications

None

6.3 Risk Implications

None

6.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

6.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications

None

7. Source Documents

7.1 [Agenda Item 6 \(Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund\) – 18 May 2023](#)