

COMMUNITIES CAPITAL FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS (MAY 2020)

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 20 May 2020

From: Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities and Partnerships

Electoral division(s): All, with particular interest to the following divisions:

- Longstanton, Northstowe & Over;
- March North and Waldersley;
- Sawtry & Stilton; and
- Somersham & Earith.

Forward Plan ref: N/A **Key decision:** No

Outcome: To consider the recommendations of the Member Panel to fund applications made under the Communities Capital Fund.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to approve the following applications for funding:

- (i) Sawtry Skatepark - £18,000;
- (ii) Somersham Outdoor Play Equipment - £32,560;
- (iii) Enhancements to Overcote, Over - £25,597;
- (iv) Estover Park, March - £35,000; and
- (v) Tower Hall, Friday Bridge Refurbishment - £36,000

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contacts:</i>
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Cambridgeshire Communities Capital Fund was launched on 1st April 2020, and sets aside up to £5m to help support projects across the county that seek to improve health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities in our communities. The fund may contribute up to £0.5m capital funding per project.
- 1.2 At its meeting of 12 March 2020, the Committee agreed the following eligibility criteria:
- i. Funding will be awarded for eligible capital spend only, and must demonstrate how the purpose of the Fund, will be met
 - ii. Bids must be able to demonstrate additionality, including, for example, how communities will be improved or enhanced by capital investment in their community
 - iii. Bids will be encouraged for projects which fill gaps or where there is an under-representation in council presence or access to public services or other activities within communities, where there is an evidenced need, or known or emerging demand for service. For example, we want to ensure that our rural communities have the same opportunities to engage with services or activities as all other communities
 - iv. No bids will be successful without some level of match funding. Capital funding from the Fund should be awarded only where all other sources of funding have been exhausted, or where council funding would provide match funding alongside other sources of funding. Match funding may be intended rather than secured at application stage, and may include non-cash match funding (e.g. in-kind contributions, land transfer etc.)
 - v. Funding will not be awarded for repairs and maintenance on assets that haven't been subject previously to a regular repairs and maintenance regime. Even then, not all repairs and maintenance would be eligible to be funded through capital budgets, and so proposals that include this would need to be considered on their own merits
 - vi. Proposals for capital projects with a potential impact on carbon emissions will need to demonstrate how these will be minimised
 - vii. Funding will be awarded using the most appropriate financial model – for example, this may be in the form of a non-repayable grant, a loan to be repaid at agreed terms, or an equity-type investment in an organisation with a recurring return on that investment. All funding arrangements would need to comply with existing County Council policies, including for example the existing third party loans policy, which has specific requirements around security, interest rate, setup fees, and guarantees
 - viii. Funding will be awarded only where there is a guarantee of no revenue implications for the County Council (aside from debt charges as a result of borrowing), except where an evidenced case can be made demonstrating how, in turn, an increased short-term revenue cost will lead to more substantial savings later
 - ix. State Aid considerations will form part of the overall application and review process.
 - x. Applications will need to be endorsed by, and submitted via, either the local County Councillor, or the County Council's Community Champion for the area

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 On the 28 April 2020, a Member panel consisting of Councillors Goldsack, Every, Costello and Batchelor met to consider a number of applications each seeking £50k or under. Councillor Meschini was also invited, but was unable to attend.

2.2 The Panel considered how the projects met the funding criterion and recommended that the following are approved for funding:

- **Sawtry Skatepark** – a project running for 6 years by the Sawtry Youth Project which has raised over £18,000 and has strong community support, particularly with young people in the village. The Panel noted that the Parish Council was contributing £100k from Section 106 funding and that young people often had to travel several miles to nearby towns to access skate parks due to lack of local provision. Funding requested - £18,000.
- **Somersham Outdoor Play Equipment** – this project from the Parish Council seeks to provide three types of play equipment for both younger and older children. The Panel again noted the lack of provision within the village and that the Parish Council will contribute £26,855. Funding requested - £32,560.
- **Overcote, Over** - this application seeks to enhance the river front and open space within Over by providing a new slipway, gravel beach, paths, parking areas and roadway enhancements. The Panel noted that this project would open up the area to greater community use for sports and leisure provision. Match funding of £72,159 is provided. Funding requested - £25,597.
- **Estover Park, March** is run by a community interest company which has taken the lease of a playing field. The project will enhance the pavilion and sports facilities on-site with new fencing, pathways, patio, café and kitchen. This will provide the venue with modern facilities and increase community use for both sports and leisure. £6,000 funding has been raised and a further £35,000 is requested.
- **Tower Hall, Friday Bridge** is looking to upgrade the facilities at its venue, which have become dated and have in some instances deterred community bookings. The Panel noted that this is a small community with limited services within the village and therefore relies upon the hall for community functions. Match funding of £3,000 is in place, with a further £3,000 expected from the Parish Council. Exact costs are not yet known due to the difficulty of getting contractors to visit during social distancing restrictions. It is therefore recommended that a maximum of £36,000 is allocated, but this is subject to the applicant providing a written quotation and confirmation of planning permission (not yet in place).

2.3 For projects seeking between £50k and £500k funding, an officer panel has been established to review the expressions of interest. Officers will advise applicants in order that they can develop business cases for funding, which will be subsequently presented to a Member panel for consideration at the end of May 2020. The panel is expected to make a recommendation to the Committee in June 2020.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The Fund seeks to improve the health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities and outcomes in our communities, thereby helping to create or enhance a good quality of life for everyone.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

Investment into community projects will provide or enhance capital assets or facilities within our communities, helping to create increased opportunities and therefore thriving places for people to live.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

Several of these projects will provide investment into activities for young people, improving physical and mental wellbeing, reducing isolation and promoting social inclusion.

3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

Investment into community projects will help to improve local services and activities, reducing the need to travel to towns/villages across Cambridgeshire. Where there is a carbon impact, projects are required to describe how that impact will be mitigated.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The capital investment set out in this report was approved at Full Council in February 2020

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications for this category. However, any commercial opportunities will follow the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and contractual regulations as per existing policies.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Successful funding awards will be subject to the applicant accepting CCC grant agreement terms and conditions.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Members have been closely involved in both the development of expressions of interest and in making recommendations

4.7 Public Health Implications

The Community Capital Fund will provide an opportunity for communities to secure funding that, combined with their own assets, will enable them to develop interventions that will improve the health and wellbeing of their community members. There is also the opportunity for the communities to, as part of the process, further strengthen their skills and assets.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Gus De Silva
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Amanda Rose
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Val Thomas

Source Documents	Location
None	N/A