

Innovate and Cultivate Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations

- To: Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee
- Meeting Date: 2 September 2021
- From: Service Director: Communities and Partnerships, Adrian Chapman
- Electoral division(s): All, with particular relevance to the following:
- Hardwick
 - Sutton
- Key decision: No
- Outcome: Projects approved for funding will be able to progress to delivery.
- Recommendation: The Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee is asked to:
- a) Agree to fund the following six applications through the Cultivate funding stream:
 - i) Abbeyfield Vietnamese Society
 - ii) Concrete Rose Collective CIC
 - iii) Grantchester Parish Council
 - iv) Mepal Makers
 - v) Safe Soulmates
 - vi) Thera East Anglia
 - b) Agree for Group Spokes to carry out a review of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund programme and the need for potential additional investment, reporting back to the Committee at its meeting in December 2021 before submitting a report to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

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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 A Recommendation Panel considers all applications to the fund and in accordance with the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee decision of 8 July 2021, is made up of seven elected members (or their nominated substitute) from the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee and seven or more officers or non-members. These are represented by Senior County Council Service Leads, a finance officer, a senior officer involved in managing the fund and a representative of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. The seven elected members are politically proportionate.
- 1.3 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 deliver projects and ideas that help address the needs of local residents.
- 1.4 There are two funding streams:
 - **Cultivate:** grants of £2,000-£15,000 aimed at encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other. This is a single stage application process, where Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee consider the final recommendations of the panel before confirming award.
 - **Innovate:** grants of £15,001 - £50,000 for projects that demonstrate an innovative approach. This is a two-stage application process where second stage applicants present a more detailed project plan and quarterly activity and budget plans to the panel, after which the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee consider the panel recommendations before confirming award.
- 1.5 All applicants to the fund are required to demonstrate a number of stated criteria including the following key criteria:
 - Project outcomes align with key funding priorities for Children & Families services, Adult Social Care, or other council priorities
 - Projects show they will reduce pressure on council services and/or offer direct savings for the council
 - Projects must be either new or build on an existing project in a new location or with new beneficiaries.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 On 28 July 2021 the Recommendation Panel considered 12 applications to the Cultivate funding stream.
- 2.2 The outcome of the panel is that six Cultivate applications meet the criteria of the fund, have been recommended for funding and are reported to this Committee for final decision, namely:

Abbeyfield Vietnamese Society
Concrete Rose Collective CIC
Grantchester Parish Council
Mepal Makers
Safe Soulmates
Thera East Anglia

- 2.3 A summary of each of the recommended applications is in Appendix 1. Full feedback will be given to those not successful in this round along with any advice or guidance not already given as part of the pre-application support sessions on alternative funding which might be of interest.
- 2.4 The amount of funding available through the Innovate and Cultivate Fund is £2.3 million. To date, the total amount of grant funding committed to applicants is up to £1,788,983 for 76 projects. If the six Cultivate applications recommended to the Committee within this report are approved, the total grant funding committed would be up to £1,838,231 for 82 projects. Administration costs are expected to total £199,995 which would bring final committed spend to up to £2,038,226.
- 2.5 The July recommendation panel was the first since the May elections, and a number of new councillors were involved for the first time. Subsequent discussions have suggested that it would be timely to carry out a review of the Fund, its application process, the ways we ensure applications are aligned to our priorities, and the decision-making process itself. The committee is asked to agree this review, and to request that Groups' Spokes work with key officers between now and the December committee meeting to carry out that review, at which point findings and recommendations will be brought back to the committee and further shared, if agreed, with the Strategy and Resources Committee.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do
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.
- 3.2 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
- 3.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full
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.
- 3.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment
There are no significant implications for this priority.

- 3.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us
The fund 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

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in section 2 and Appendix 1.

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 2018 Communities and Partnership Committee.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Community empowerment sits at the heart of the Innovate & 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, Social Mobility and Inclusion 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.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Neutral Status:

Explanation:

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 is repeated except for the information on the actual applications being recommended for funding.

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 Source documents

Application Form:

<https://ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/ICF>

Guidance:

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>