

COMMUNITIES CAPITAL FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS (JUNE 2020)

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 18 June 2020

From: Adrian Chapman, Service Director for Communities and Partnerships

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

- Alconbury & Kimbolton
- Cambourne
- Sawtry & Stilton
- Somersham & Earith

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

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

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

Approve the following applications for funding:

- (i) Caresco – £41,500 for repairs and upgrade to Sawtry Mancave;
- (ii) Stilton Parish Council - £37,500 for new playground equipment;
- (iii) Winwick Village Hall – £20,000 for upgrades to the village hall;
- (iv) Woodhurst Village Hall - £12,954 for upgrades to the village hall; and
- (v) Cambourne Town Council - £237,000 (subject to the completion of due diligence checks) for the Cambourne Youth Building.

Officer contact:		Member contacts:	
Name:	Ian Phillips	Names:	Cllr Steve Criswell
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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 community projects across the county.
- 1.2 The fund may contribute up to £0.5m capital funding for community-based projects which can address issues which are a specific priority for the local community, address inequality of access to services or activities, and implement community involvement in delivery or design of the project.
- 1.3 At its meeting of 12 March 2020, the Communities and Partnership 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 15 May 2020, a Member panel consisting of Councillors Goldsack, Every, Costello, Meschini and Batchelor met to consider a number of applications seeking £50k or under. The panel considered how the projects met the funding criteria and recommended that the following are approved for funding:

- **Caresco (Sawtry Mancave).** This project is using a former disused council building and has created a successful Mancave project where the local community repairs/recycles items for community use. The project supports men with a range of mental health and other issues and makes a positive impact, not only for the individuals but for the wider community. Recently, it has been identified that the building requires substantial improvements including electrical works, new toilets/sanitation and new kitchen facilities. This will allow for the project to increase its opening hours and appeal to the local community. £41,500 grant is requested.
- **Stilton Parish Council.** Community surveys have identified the lack of children's play equipment in the village, particularly for primary age children. This often means that parents travel to nearby towns and villages to access play equipment elsewhere. The parish council has consulted widely with the community and school children on the design of any potential new equipment. Such is the support from the community, £12,500 has been raised locally, with a further £10,000 donation from the parish council towards the project. A further £37,500 is requested.
- **Winwick Village Hall.** Winwick is a small village with very limited community facilities, with the village hall being the hub of this rural community and in need of upgrade and improvement. Stage one of the project commenced in 2018, and has seen a new extension built including a new kitchen. The second stage of the project will be to upgrade the toilets and replace the windows, tables and chairs. The hall is well used within the village with a broad range of activities regularly taking place, including village meetings. Funding of £20,000 is requested.
- **Woodhurst Village Hall.** Similarly, Woodhurst is also a rural village with limited community facilities. The village hall is now 40 years old and no longer meets local needs. Both the kitchen and toilets are of a low standard and restrict the use of the building; refurbishing would increase use and income. The village hall has raised £5,000 towards the costs and is requesting a further £12,954.

2.3 For projects seeking between £50k and £500k funding, a Member Panel met on 8th June 2020 to consider applications. Each project provided further information and a full business case to support their application. Councillors Criswell, Meschini, Ashwood, Smith and Nieto considered several applications and recommended the following for approval (subject to due diligence checks being completed by the Finance team). Further project recommendations are expected to be presented at the Committee meeting on 2nd July 2020.

- **Cambourne Town Council.** Cambourne is a growing town with a high number of young people. In 2006, a temporary youth building was erected with the expectation of a permanent replacements within 5 years. The same temporary building remains and is now in poor condition and unable to meet the growing demands of the town. The town council has worked closely with local residents and Romsey Mill to develop proposals for a new first-class building, from which multiple youth clubs and services can be delivered. The panel noted that 86% of residents in a town council survey felt

that the current building was not fit for purpose, and that a new building would help to bring young people and their families together and significantly help to improve social cohesion. Match funding of £737,792 has been secured, with a further £237,000 requested.

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. In addition, improvements to older buildings will see energy efficient measures being installed, for example double glazing, LED lighting and modern heating systems to reduce the carbon footprint.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The capital investment in the Communities Capital Fund 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 County Council 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