

Cultivate Cambs – Endorsement of Recommendations (March 2023)

To: Communities, Social Mobility, and Inclusion Committee

Meeting Date: 23 March 2023

From: Interim Area Manager: Think Communities, Adam Garford

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide the Committee with the outcome of the 8 March 2023 Innovate & Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

Agree to fund the following sixteen applications:

- i) Hope Against Poverty CIC
- ii) Groundwork East
- iii) Soham Community Association
- iv) Camtrust
- v) Cambourne Men's Shed
- vi) Rowan
- vii) Social Echo North Huntingdonshire CIC
- viii) SSAFA Cambridgeshire
- ix) Home start Cambridgeshire
- x) Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination
- xi) Orchard Park Community Council
- xii) The Baca Charity
- xiii) Switch180
- xiv) Sports Connections Foundation
- xv) JG Next Generation CIC
- xvi) Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative

Officer contact:

Name: Adam Garford
Post: Think Communities Area Manager
Email: adam.garford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 07881 470547

Member contacts:

Names: Councillors Tom Sanderson and Hilary Cox Condron
Post: Chair/Vice-Chair
Email: Tom.Sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Hilary.CoxCondron@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01223 706398

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council's 'invest to save' Innovation Fund was launched in November 2016. A refresh of the fund was then carried out resulting in the Innovate and Cultivate Fund in August 2017. On 8 July 2021, the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee resolved to review and update the Innovate and Cultivate Fund, and the updated Cultivate Cambs fund was launched in July 2022.
- 1.2 Cultivate Cambs offers grants of £2,000-£15,000 to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, as well as public sector bodies in Cambridgeshire, to deliver projects and ideas that help address the needs of local residents.
- 1.3 A Recommendation Panel considers applications to the fund. As agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 8 July 2021, the panel is made up of seven elected members (or their nominated substitute), who are appointed in a politically proportionate manner from the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee, officers representing Adults services, Children's services, Think Communities, and the Finance team, plus a representative of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.
- 1.5 All applicants to the fund are required to demonstrate 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 8 March 2023, the Recommendation Panel considered twenty-three applications to the Cultivate funding stream.
- 2.2 The outcome of the panel is that the following sixteen Cultivate applications have been recommended to the Committee for funding:
 - i) Hope Against Poverty CIC
 - ii) Groundwork East
 - iii) Soham Community Association
 - iv) Camtrust
 - v) Cambourne Men's Shed
 - vi) Rowan
 - vii) Social Echo North Huntingdonshire CIC
 - viii) SSAFA Cambridgeshire
 - ix) Home start Cambridgeshire
 - x) Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination

- xi) Orchard Park Community Council
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- xv) JG Next Generation CIC
- xvi) Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative

2.3 A summary of each of the recommended applications is attached at Appendix 1. Full feedback will be given to unsuccessful applicants in this funding round, including where alternative funding might be available and other support to achieve their proposed project ambitions.

2.4 The amount of grant funding committed to date from the £2.65m allocated to both the Innovate and Cultivate Fund and the Cultivate Cambs fund is £2.28m for 118 projects. If the sixteen Cultivate applications recommended to the Committee within this report are approved, the total committed to grants would be £2.47m for 134 projects. After administration costs, the final committed spend from the £2.65m available funds is expected to be in the region of £2.64m.

Innovate and Cultivate Funding	£2,300,000
Cultivate Cambs Funding	£350,000
Total Funding	£2,650,000
Projects to date (committed)	£2,281,665
New projects this round	£191,488
Fees Estimate	£167,298
Forecast Spend	£2,640,451

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Health and Care

The focus of the fund is to offer opportunity for all organisations who want to provide local support to improve the quality of life for people and so they can 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 Places and Communities

The fund demonstrates continuing investment in communities, helping local groups and organisations to fulfil their needs and aspirations, fund projects which build community capacity, and design and deliver place based community-led support.

3.4 Children and Young People

A key focus of the Fund is to fund initiatives that support vulnerable children and young people, focusing on where the support of the voluntary and community sector makes a real difference to the lives of children and families, providing opportunities for the whole population to succeed and to enable improved outcomes. Moreover, building communities that are vibrant and have opportunity, and enhancing the social mobility of families, will directly and positively create the best possible start for our children

3.5 Transport

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications in Paragraph 2.4 and Appendix 1 of this report.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications.

5. Source Documents

5.1 [Cambridgeshire Community Foundation - Grant Application Forms and Guidance](#)