

**COMMUNITIES CAPITAL FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS
(AUGUST 2020)**

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **6 August 2020**

From: **Adrian Chapman, Service Director of Communities and Partnerships**

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

- Bar Hill
- Bartlow
- Brampton and Buckden
- Hardwick
- Littleport
- March North and Waldersey
- March South and Rural
- Melbourn and Bassingbourn
- Roman Bank and Peckover
- Sawston and Shelford
- Soham North and Isleham
- Soham South and Haddenham
- The Hemingfords and Fenstanton
- Wisbech West

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

Outcome: **To consider the recommendation 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) Viva - £498,317 for refurbishment of Spencer Mill, Soham;**
- (ii) Gorefield Parish Council - £198,00 for extension of the Community Hall;**
- (iii) Stretham Parish Council – £500,000 for the Stretham Village Centre;**
- (iv) Fenstanton Village Hall Trust - £500,000 for the Fenstanton Community Hub;**

- (v) **Hilton Village Hall – up to £10,000 for new audio/visual equipment;**
- (vi) **Eversden Parish Council - £20,000 for new playground equipment;**
- (vii) **Wisbech Town Council – up to £150,000 for Market Place Enhancements;**
- (viii) **Hauxton Parish Council - £88,855 for Hauxton Village Hall ;**
- (ix) **Brampton Parish Council - £50,000 for the Bampton’s Men’s Shed;**
- (x) **Stapleford and Shelford Youth Initiative - £12,000 for the Youth Centre Refurbishment;**
- (xi) **Christchurch Community Centre - £15,000 for Outdoor Equipment;**
- (xii) **Littleport Parish Council – up to £406,000 for a Youth and Community Centre;**
- (xiii) **St Mary’s Church, Bartlow - £81,000 for a stable block conversion;**
- (xiv) **Melbourn Parish Council - £65,000 for the Melbourn Village Hub;**
- (xv) **Girton Parish Council - £275,000 for the extension of the pavilion; and**
- (xvi) **Fenland District Council – up to £75,000 for improvements to West End Park, March.**

<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 community projects across the county. The fund is also to support community led projects to improve health, wellbeing, social and economic opportunities in our communities.
- 1.2 The fund may contribute up to £0.5m capital funding for community-based projects which can address issues which 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 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 During June and July 2020, four member panels were convened to consider projects. The Panels considered how the projects met the funding criterion and recommended that the following are approved for funding:

2.2 **Viva (Spencer Mill, Soham) £498,317** – This project is seeking to redevelop the derelict Spencer Mill site into an arts and community hub for the town and has raised £1.9m in match funding. The building has been derelict for over 30 years and is often a magnet for anti-social behaviour, vandalism and drug related issues. The project will seek to restore and extend this building into a vibrant community asset which will host a range of arts and culture activities and provide a community space from which services and activities can be delivered. The project has already raised £1.9m in match funding from over 40 different funders and requires a further £498,317 to complete the project. The panel felt that the project has demonstrated strong evidence of local need and would make a significant impact to the Soham community, bringing a historic building back into community use.

Cambridgeshire County Council has previously approved loans of £450,000 to Viva through the General Purpose Committee, however just £300,000 of this amount has been taken up in accordance with third party loans policy requiring a minimum level of "loan to value" from underlying assets. These funds have been used towards the cost of the purchase of the building and the redevelopment works. The grant is for work that is in addition to the works which the council has loaned money for and will include fit out costs for the building.

The project will:

- Restore the existing mill building (including a new roof, windows, doors, insulation etc) and its grounds to its former glory, creating a main flexible auditorium area and an upstairs events, meeting and social space
- Build a new front extension encompassing a foyer, box office and toilets
- Build a new back extension encompassing stage, cinema system, dressing rooms and backstage areas
- Redevelop the site and enable parking for over 50-plus including disabled parking
- Redevelop the approach road to the site (a CCC asset) to make it fully accessible and safe, as well as enable full pedestrian access via a new footpath and cycle access too

- Install a lift and hearing loop to enable full Equalities Act compliance
- Install all necessary equipment, a new electrical substation for the area, all IT, WiFi and an environmentally friendly heating and air conditioning system to enable year-round use

Should funding be approved, the building is estimated to be completed in March 2021.

- 2.3 **Gorefield Parish Council - £198,000.** The village hall was originally built in 2013, but has rapidly outgrown the space available due to demand from community groups to use the building. The project will see an additional room created, which will allow for multiple community activities to take place at the same time.

The village hall helps to impact on skills, loneliness and obesity, as well as wider health and wellbeing outcomes.

In addition to the extra meeting space, the project will also provide a separate bar/lounge area that sports users can enjoy alongside community bookings such as weddings, christenings and parties.

One of the benefits to expanding the facilities will be the increased capacity for the local youth club. Currently, the club is restricted on numbers and storage meaning that it cannot meet demand from Gorefield and surrounding villages, which this extension will address. Match funding of £60,000 is available to support the build costs.

- 2.4 **Stretham Parish Council - £500,000.** The existing parish rooms are outdated, in poor repair and unable to meet the needs of the community. The building was last refurbished in the 1960's and is unable to be extended further. In consultation with the local community, there is demand for a community space from which increased community events and activities can take place. The parish council in response has developed this project to build a new community hub. Stretham has a higher than average older population, many of whom have limited mobility and therefore find it difficult to access services and activities outside of the village. By providing a new community hub in the village, it will increase the opportunities for all residents, but particularly for more vulnerable residents. Match funding of £1m will be provided from the parish council.

- 2.5 **Fenstanton Village Hall Trust - £500,000.** Fenstanton currently has no community meeting space, other than an oversubscribed church hall. The village has been without a village hall since 2005, when the previous building was closed due to poor repair. More recently, Fenstanton has expanded with 89 new homes built upon the site of the former Dairy Crest milk processing plant. Planning permission for the development included a provision for a new community centre where groups can meet and educational, leisure and sports activities can take place, alongside a new community café. With new families moving into the village, the building will also help to reduce loneliness and improve community cohesion.

The Trust has raised over £200k towards the cost of development, with a further £170k match funding from the parish council.

- 2.6 **Hilton Village Hall - £10,000.** The village hall is well used within the village, with over 500 bookings a year. A problem with the hall has been the poor natural acoustics of the building compounded by the lack of a PA system; this issue is especially acute when all the rooms are in use at the same time or when numbers of people using the hall are high. A comprehensive audio visual system, capable of linking with social media and mobile devices, would overcome these issues and also help to develop new business opportunities.
- 2.7 **Eversden Parish Council - £20,000.** The Eversden children's playground was built approximately 20 years ago and is a modest enclosed area with a variety of play pieces. There are other types of play equipment elsewhere on the recreation ground including some recent additions for older children and much older pieces in varying states of decay at the farthest end of the ground, including a roundabout that is currently partially removed. The children's playground is now at a stage where an overhaul of the equipment is required. This is particularly the case with the tiled flooring which needs repair alongside reconfiguring some of the equipment and installing a wheelchair friendly roundabout within this area. Match funding of £15k is available to support the project.
- 2.8 **Wisbech Town Council - £150,000.** This project seeks to both improve the appearance of Wisbech Market Place and introduce new and improved facilities which will enhance its use as both a trading area and a community space. One of the key aspects to this project is to develop a pedestrianised zone (operating between 7.00 am and 4.00 pm within the Market Place area and, secondly, to prohibit car parking on the Market Place and to undertake physical works such as new seating and waste bins, re-paving, decorative water features, plus a feature to attract the public to want to spend time in that space.
- By bringing people together, whether it be for retail activity or community activity, the Market Place plays an important role in improving community cohesion/integration and people's wellbeing and mental health. Making Wisbech Market Place a more inviting and welcoming place for people to spend time will bring many benefits to the community. Match funding of £50,000 is available from Wisbech Town Council.
- 2.9 **Hauxton Parish Council - £88,855.** Over the last few years, the village has doubled from 300 to 600 households. The village has no pub, shop or anywhere for people to come together and socialise other than an old and small village hall. Given the growth of the village and condition of the building, the hall was not able to meet the needs of its residents and was subsequently sold. The sale of the building has helped to part fund the development of a new building, which commenced in November 2019.

The new village centre will provide a café, lunch clubs, meeting space and a youth club for the village. Over £1m match funding has been committed from the parish council and fund raising, which should see the building complete and open in September 2020. Funding from the Communities Capital Fund will meet the final build costs and provide the kit out costs to allow the community to fully use the building upon opening.

2.10 Brampton Parish Council - £50,000. The parish council has determined that there is a gap in services and support for men within the village particularly for older males, who without a work identity can become socially isolated. A Men's Shed can not only provide valuable support to residents, but also provides a vital service locally helping to repair and refurbish household items that can be recycled within the village. Research indicates that most of the people involved in Men's Sheds are typically older males, without a current work-based identity, who have become socially isolated. They are usually in the process of one or more difficult transitions in terms of work or retirement, relationships with partner, health issues or financial status. Men's Sheds can attract socially isolated men in a way that most totally socially focused groups do not. This is borne out locally by the low proportions of men joining the various community groups currently available in Brampton. The parish council are providing £30,000 match funding towards this project, with a further £5,000 also being donated from the village hub.

2.11 Stapleford and Shelford Youth initiative - £12,000. Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative was established in 1997 to provide constructive activities, support and a safe environment for marginalised and disadvantaged young people between 10 and 18 years old. This involves engaging with young people to build relationships, encourage more positive behaviour, participating in the community and activities to promote informal education.

The project will involve work on flooring, walls and ceiling, as well as interior fitments, furniture, equipment and kitchen area. This builds on the initial superficial refurbishment undertaken since the charity has taken on the space full time in 2019 from Great Shelford Parish Council. An application to the Parish Council for £4,000 match funding has been made, but has not yet been confirmed at the time of writing.

2.12 Christchurch Community Centre - £15,000. This project seeks to install a covered patio area to the community centre. This will increase the capacity of the hall in the summer, by providing a waterproof seating area, making the building more attractive to summer bookings and improving the financial viability. The covering will allow for outdoor electrical items to be used, such as PA systems and will serve as an outdoor classroom for the local primary school. Match funding of £7,500 is available from the community centre to support the project.

2.13 Littleport Parish Council - £406,000. Littleport currently has no appropriate facilities within the village to locate the youth club. The club, currently

supports 150 children and is keen to expand and develop further. Within the village, there have been a number of problems with youth related anti-social behaviour and drug related issues. The development of a new community hub within the village will provide a base from which youth services can be delivered, including youth outreach work to help address some of the issues that the village has faced. In addition, the hub will also offer broader community services such as adult skills, community café, pop up library and meeting space for community events and activities. The parish council will be employing outreach workers to engage with young people, and will provide match funding of £58,500.

- 2.14 **St Mary's Church, Bartlow - £81,000.** Bartlow is a small, rural village with very limited community facilities. Currently, the church is used for community meetings and events (including acting as a polling station), but is restricted in its offer to the community due to the lack of toilet facilities or kitchen meaning that the attendees have to rely upon the goodwill of neighbours to use these facilities. Recently, the church has acquired some additional land containing disused stables, which can be converted into toilets and a kitchen area. The church also plans to remove some of its pews, thereby opening more space for community use and activities. Local residents have raised £15k towards the costs of the project.

- 2.15 **Melbourn Parish Council - £65,000.** This project looks to extend the current the community hub, which opened in 2014. The hub is open six days a week and provides a range of services and activities for the village, including a volunteer run library access point, a café, meeting rooms and a timebank. Over the last 18 months, the hub has seen its footfall double and can no longer meet the needs of local residents.

The extension will allow more services to be provided locally, particularly health services where the local GP is keen to provide outreach support for issues such as obesity, smoking and diabetes. The extension will double the number of meeting rooms in the building and improve disability access to public space. Match funding from the parish council of £93,600 is in place.

- 2.16 **Girton Parish Council £275,000.** The pavilion is the hub for the village, providing a wide range of sporting and leisure activities for local people. Whilst the building was completed in 2001, financial constraints at the time has limited the usable space, particularly on the first floor which has disabled access, poor insulation and general fit out. Additionally, the hall's small space often restricts the type and size of activity that can take place.

The project proposes to extend the building to provide a larger hall, relocate the parish office to the ground floor to improve disability access, relocate changing facilities and provide an additional external staircase directly to the sports fields. The enlarged hall will also feature a stage and additional seating allowing it to cater for conferences, public events and theatre productions. Match funding of £275,000 is being provided by the parish council.

2.17 **Fenland District Council - £75,000.** The project aims to improve four sections of West End Park, March through the following:

- I. Improve the route surface for March Park Run which currently has 100+ participants weekly, with a new junior run to follow. This will create a hard surface for low-lying parts of the route (wood edging, chippings/tarmac) to safeguard events in wet conditions, which has often led to cancellation in the past.
- II. Create a permanent tarmac path from the park entrance to the bandstand. This is a popular venue, but the current access (across grass) is a poor surface for people with mobility issues.
- III. Enhance the junior play area by increasing the number of pieces of play equipment from 9, to 20. The size of the current facilities cannot cater for a town the size of March.
- IV. Provide fencing to the skate park, which was upgraded in 2019 and has proved extremely popular with older children. However, there is no current fencing on site, presenting a safety concern to young children and dogs who can wander into the skate park.

West End Park is a community hub, popular throughout the town. The four projects will have wide community appeal and generate significant increased usage within the park. Match funding of £10,000 between Fenland District and March Town Councils is available.

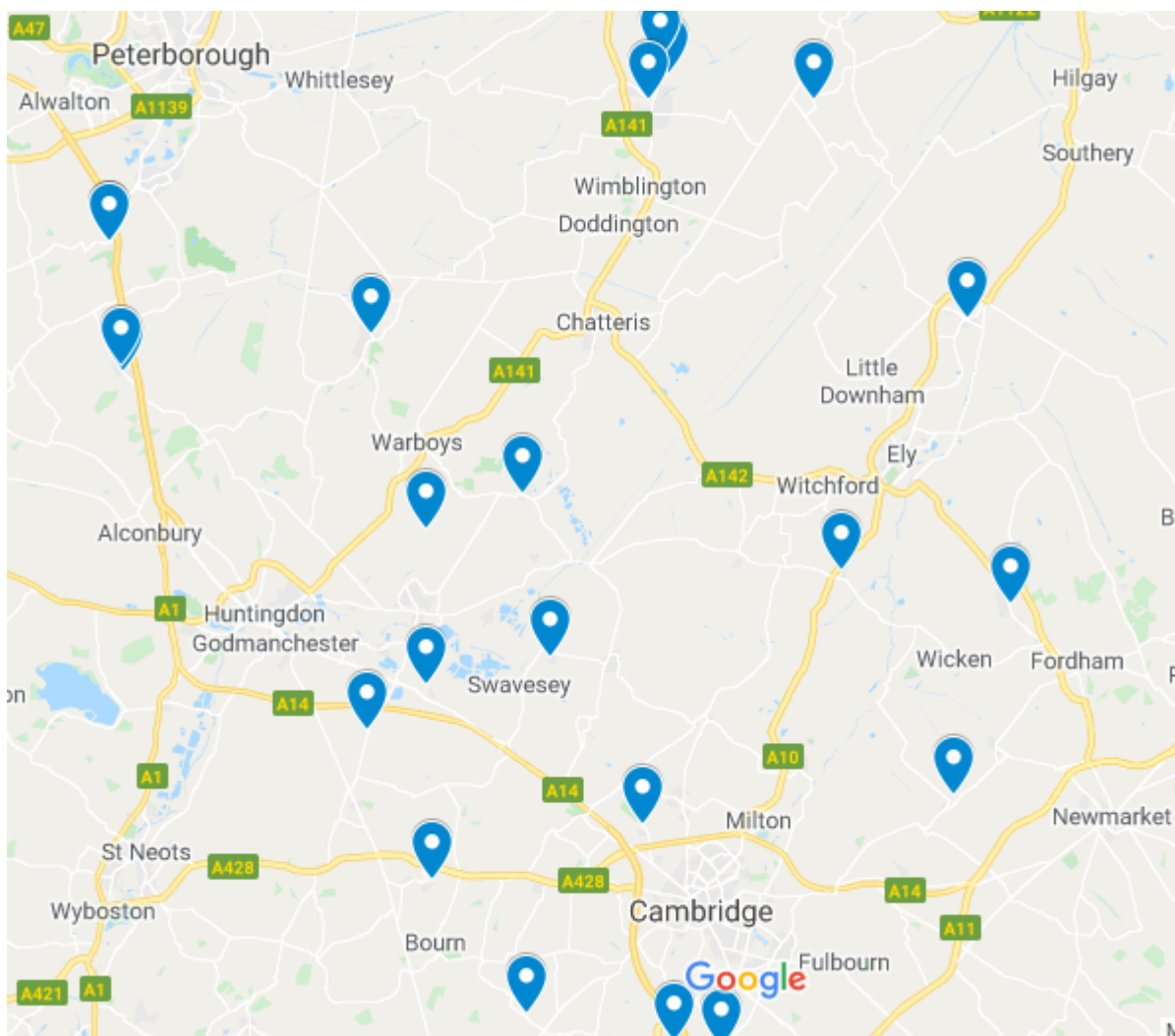
FINANCE

2.18 Since the fund launched, 63 applications have been received, requesting a total of £9.754m. To date, 29 projects have been approved/recommended for approval (inclusive of the projects within this report). Should the Committee approve the projects within this report, a total of £4,086,284 will have been allocated. It is expected that the remaining £913,716 will be allocated to recommended projects at the September 2020 Committee.

2.19 Projects funded to date are as follows:

- Sawtry Skate Park - £18,000
- Somersham Parish Council, outdoor play equipment - £32,561
- Over Parish Council, enhancements to Overcote - £25,597
- Estover Park - £35,000
- Tower Hall, Friday Bridge - £36,000
- Woodhurst Village Hall upgrade - £12,954
- Winwick Village Hall upgrade - £20,000
- Stilton Parish Council play equipment - £37,500
- Caresco, Sawtry Mancave - £41,500
- Swaffham Prior Village Hall refurbishment - £62,000
- Cambourne Town Council – £237,000
- Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust - £350,000
- March Rugby Club -£234,000

Total £1,142,112



Map showing projects approved and recommended for approval within this report

GOVERNANCE

2.20 The Committee report of 12 March 2020 outlined the governance arrangements for reviewing project applications (attached at **Appendix 1**). In summary, projects are assessed by an officer panel and then presented to a cross party Member panel for review and recommendation to the Committee. In addition to these arrangements, officers will conduct further scrutiny of successful applicants to minimise any financial risk to the County Council. Successful applicants are subject to the County Council's terms and conditions as set out within a grant agreement and in addition, are also asked to provide further information in support of their application as set out in **Appendix 2**.

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 for residents, reducing the need to travel to towns/villages across Cambridgeshire.

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: Christine Birchall
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

Summary of Application Process

1. Expression of Interest submitted to the relevant Think Communities Area Co-ordinator, via the local County Councillor and/or relevant Community Champion

2. Officer panel, comprising senior representation from key services including Communities, Planning, Highways, Property, Finance and Legal, reviews the Expression of Interest to determine whether it meets the initial criteria, and to offer initial advice and guidance.

3. If the initial criteria are met, applicants will be invited to develop a full proposal and submit to the relevant Think Communities Area Co-ordinator, via their County Councillor and/or Community Champion.

4. Full proposals are presented to the Member Panel, who will make recommendations to the Communities and Partnership Committee. Committee will consider Panel recommendations at its next available meeting.

5. The relevant County Councillor and/or Community Champion, and the Think Communities Area Co-ordinator, will together ensure that approved projects progress in accordance with the approvals, with progress reported formally to Committee.

Questions for applicants:

Your application to the Community Capital Fund (CCF) is due for consideration at Community and Partnerships Committee on xx/xx/xxxx after being recommended for approval by the CCF Member panel. In advance of this can you please provide the following details by xx/xx/xxx as part of our due diligence procedures:

Please confirm that your organisation is constituted body with a codified governance structure and

- a) If you are a registered charity or company please provide your charity/company number so that we can undertake a credit check.
- b) If not, please provide a copy of your constitution

Please provide references from two companies that you have dealt with in the last 12 months.

Does your organisation have bank account in its name?

What are your organisation's arrangements for preparing, publishing (where required) and reviewing/auditing periodic and annual accounts?

Does your organisation have adequate insurance in place for this project? Please confirm with details.

Has your organisation undertaken a project of this scale previously? If so, please provide details. If not, please outline any support/expertise you have in place to ensure a successful project.

As a public body Cambridgeshire County Council have a duty ensure that best value is achieved with our funding. Please detail the arrangements you have in place to ensure that value for money will be achieved with any grant funding that is awarded.

Please disclose any links that your organisation has with senior decision members at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).

Senior decision maker in this situation refers to

- Any director of CCC
- Any County Councillor of CCC

Please indicate whether they have had any involvement with the submission or assessment of this bid.

Are there any other governance issues that CCC as funder should be aware of, including but not limited to,

Any non-compliance, warning, caution, litigation or breach issued by a regulator, supplier, customer, professional advice against the bidder or its key decision makers?