

COMMUNITIES CAPITAL FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS (JULY 2020)

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 2 July 2020

From: Adrian Chapman, Service Director of Communities and Partnerships

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

- Burwell
- March North and Waldersey
- Ramsey and Bury

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) March Town Rugby Club - £234,000;

(ii) Swaffham Prior Village Hall - £62,000; and

(iii) Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust - £350,000.

| <i>Officer contact:</i> | <i>Member contacts:</i> |
|--|---|
| Name: Ian Phillips | Names: Cllr Steve Criswell |
| Post: Head of Communities & Partnerships Integration | Post: Chairman |
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Cambridgeshire Communities Capital Fund was launched on 1 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 8 June 2020, a Member Panel consisting of Cllrs Criswell, Smith, Nieto, Meschini and Ashwood met to consider a number of applications. The Panel considered how the projects met the funding criterion and recommended that the following are approved for funding:
- **March Town Rugby Club.** This project brings together March Bears Rugby Club, March Athletics Club and March Rangers Youth Football Club into the March Sports Association, an organisation which is looking to improve sporting and leisure opportunities. This project seeks to provide new changing facilities for both men and women, which will allow the club to continue to grow and in particular, provide a significantly enhanced offer to women and girls. The project will also upgrade the clubhouse, which will provide an improved space not only for sports users, but also for the wider community who can use the building for meetings and social functions. The ambition is to ensure the building and its facilities will allow for all round use, meeting a diverse range of needs for the whole community. Match funding of £126,000 has been raised, with a further £234,000 requested.
 - **Swaffham Prior Village Hall.** The current village hall is well used by the local community, but suffers from a poor layout and design which means one of the two halls within the building is unable to be booked separately to the other hall. This often means that smaller bookings are unable to be taken, resulting in disappointment for local people and lost revenue for the village hall. The project therefore proposes to extend and alter the existing facilities to allow for more flexible and increased usage. Match funding of £10,000 is being contributed, with a further £62,000 requested.
 - **Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust.** This project is proposing to redevelop the existing cricket pavilion to provide a modern sporting and community hub. The proposal is to refurbish approximately 175 square metres of the existing Ramsey Cricket Club pavilion and construct approximately 100 square metres of new build extensions, to create a single conglomerate whole surrounded by an extensive green space. This project will breathe new life into this existing sports club to create a valuable new community asset. The Pavilion will be an easily accessible, non-threatening 'community sporting hub' that offers information, activities, services and a meeting place which inspires and supports people to take their own actions to benefit themselves, and others. Funding of £350,000 is requested, with £230,000 match funding provided through the Ramsey Million Big Local. It is estimated that the works should be completed by April 2021.
- 2.2 Should the Committee approve these projects, a total of £1,142,112 will have been committed to date.
- 2.3 The Community Capital Fund is currently closed to new applications due to being oversubscribed, with applications submitted before 15 June 2020 now being processed and will be presented to future Committee meetings for consideration.

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 project 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

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 March and Swaffham Prior 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 |
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| Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? | Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade |
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| Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? | Yes Name of Officer: Gus De Silva |
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| 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 |
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| Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? | Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman |
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| Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? | Yes Name of Officer: Amanda Rose |
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| Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? | Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman |
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| Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health | Yes Name of Officer: Val Thomas |

| Source Documents | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| None | N/A |