

INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

To: Communities and Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 8 October 2020

From: Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities and Safety

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: For key decisions Democratic Services can provide this reference

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide the Communities and Partnership Committee with the outcome of the September 2020 Innovate & Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel.

Recommendation: Communities and Partnership Committee is asked to:

- a) Agree to fund the following three applications through the Cultivate funding stream:
 - The Kite Trust - Building Support Networks for LGBTQ+ Young People
 - Fenstanton Parish Council - Community Warden
 - Lighthouse Ely - Linking Lives Ely
- b) Note the amount of funding potentially available for future rounds (section 2.4 of the report) and consider whether the ICF Steering Group should pursue continuing the fund beyond the current financial envelope.

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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 In accordance with Committee decision of 24 August 2017, a Recommendation Panel considers applications to the fund and is made up of three County Council Service Leads or Assistant Directors, the Chief Finance Officer or Head of Finance, a senior officer involved in managing the fund, a representative of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and five elected members from the Communities and Partnership Committee.
- 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-£19,000 aimed at encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other. This is a single stage application process, where Communities and Partnership Committee consider the final recommendations of the panel before confirming award.
 - **Innovate:** grants of £19,001 - £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 and Partnership 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 In September 2020 the Recommendation Panel considered 4 project proposals to the Cultivate funding stream and 14 stage one project proposals to the Innovate funding stream.
- 2.2 The outcome of the panel is that 3 Cultivate applications have been recommended for funding and are reported to this Committee for final decision, namely:
 - The Kite Trust - Building Support Networks for LGBTQ+ Young People
 - Fenstanton Parish Council - Community Warden

- Lighthouse Ely - Linking Lives Ely

2.3 The amount of grant funding committed to date is £1,337,041 for 58 projects. If the Cultivate applications recommended to the Communities and Partnership Committee within this report are approved, the total committed will be up to £1,382,128 for 61 projects.

A summary of each of the recommended applications is in **Appendix 1**.

2.4 Of the 14 Innovate funding applications received, 8 have met the criteria for Stage 1 of the fund and have been invited to submit more detailed information on their project plans for Stage 2 of their application. It is worth noting that should all 8 Innovate applications be recommended for funding and subsequently successful, the total amount of grant funding committed will be in the region of £1,735,000. Administration and other associated running costs therefore bring the fund close to full allocation. It is therefore proposed that any remaining funds once the outcome of the Innovate Stage 2 applications are confirmed, will be allocated through a future round of Cultivate applications in line with the current criteria and that a paper is brought back to Committee in January 2021 to review spend to date and consider any future funding, in keeping with the developing Think Communities approach.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- 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.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- 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.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- 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 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 2.3 and **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- 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

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- 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 following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- 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 following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The plans for engagement and communication of this Fund are as agreed at 8th November 2018 Committee.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- 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 and Partnership Committee receive recommendations for funding from the Recommendation Panel.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- 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.

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

5.1 Source documents

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Innovate and Cultivate Fund application forms and guidance.

5.2 Location

Application Form:

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

Guidance:

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

Appendix 1

Cultivate Fund applications recommended by the panel to the Communities and Partnership Committee for final decision.

Applicant and Project Name	Project Description	Amount of funding requested
<p>The Kite Trust</p> <p>Building Support Networks for LGBTQ+ Young People</p>	<p>To develop Kite Trust's volunteer offer and management processes and to develop new locations and activities to provide support for the families of LGBTQ+ young people in order to strengthen their support networks.</p> <p>A Volunteer Co-ordinator will be appointed to recruit, interview, induct, train and manage volunteers more effectively. The new volunteer roles will include fundraising and events volunteers, volunteer mentors for LGBTQ+ young people, and resource and content development volunteers.</p> <p>To develop a whole family approach and trial provision in new geographical areas, 20 fortnightly meal-based activities will be open to parents/carers and siblings as well as the LGBTQ+ young people themselves. These will be offered in new locations rotating around the different districts of Cambridgeshire including places like: Chatteris, St Ives, St Neots, Whittlesey, Soham, Wisbech, Histon, Great Shelford and Orchard Park.</p> <p>This is a new approach The Kite Trust wants to try out as many LGBTQ+ young people face challenges with their family around coming out. There is also a lot of evidence to show LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately discriminated against and experience greater disadvantage and isolation than non LGBTQ+ peers. Half of all LGBTQ+ pupils still face bullying at school, and more than two in five trans young people have tried to take their own life. This project's 2 pronged approach creates the potential to increase support networks for young LGBTQ+ and in doing so, prevent serious harm.</p>	<p>£18,540</p>

Applicant and Project Name	Project Description	Amount of funding requested
<p>Fenstanton Parish Council</p> <p>Community Warden</p>	<p>To work with Age UK to provide a Community Warden Scheme to the elderly residents of the Parish of Fenstanton, as part of a wider joint scheme with the parishes of Fen Drayton, Lolworth and Elsworth.</p> <p>The Community Warden Scheme will help older people in Fenstanton to live in their own homes with support, providing regular contact (Mon to Fri), reassurance and general help to remain independent.</p> <p>The type of support will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - help with small amounts of shopping; - collect prescriptions; - read and sort post; - make phone calls on the person's behalf; - help complete forms and access on-line services; - monitor safety in the home, including potential trip hazards; - liaise with other services, community and volunteer groups, including, when needed, organising tradespeople and volunteers, arrange for a doctor or nurse to visit, or assist to get to an appointment. <p>The impact of Warden schemes in supporting people to stay happy and safe within their own homes is well documented. The project has the potential to support residents to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing loneliness • Improving mobility • Providing co-ordination and support from other services delivered by the community and voluntary sector • Act as a helping hand and stop deterioration of health and wellbeing through early intervention 	<p>£10,500</p>

Applicant and Project Name	Project Description	Amount of funding requested
<p>Lighthouse Ely</p> <p>Linking Lives Ely</p>	<p>To deliver Linking Lives, a successful, well-established national volunteer programme of befrienders, to engage in weekly home visits with the isolated elderly population of Ely and surrounding villages and encourage their participation in social/community activities.</p> <p>Linking Lives will build upon the success of the LuvEly Monday and Friday Social Clubs for elderly residents held at the Lighthouse Centre that have been curtailed by Covid-19 restrictions. Linking Lives will instead send trained volunteers to members' residences to visit and sustain these valuable relationships. The programme will also branch out to reach even more seniors in the surrounding community who need connection and who may not have been able to attend the social clubs due to transport issues or other physical or mental health limitations.</p> <p>Linking Lives will also seek to involve the elderly, as much as is possible, with events in the community as well as determine their practical needs and meet them where possible. By identifying specific needs, volunteers can guide them to the right avenues, e.g. the community hub, to remedy issues. They will also help by picking up medications, shopping, performing simple household tasks etc. Identifying and meeting practical needs will also enable elderly people to live independently for longer.</p>	<p>£16,046.58</p>