

17 May 2018**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2018-21 – RECOMMENDATIONS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider applications received in respect of the Local Improvement Scheme 2018 to 2021 for capital and revenue funding support in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Council.
2. To seek approval for the award of funding for capital projects for 2018 to 2019.
3. To seek approval for the award of revenue funding as a contribution to projects and activities for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021.
4. To seek approval for the launch of an annual Talented Athletes fund.
5. To seek approval for the launch of a new round of capital funding for 2019 to 2020.

Information

6. On 15 November 2017 Policy Committee approved the opening and launch of a new Local Improvement Scheme Integrated Funding Programme and Strategy 2018 to 2021 to provide support to help Nottinghamshire communities to be vibrant and sustainable.
7. In line with the Council's strategic priorities – to put local people at the heart of everything it does and enable vibrant and supportive communities to grow – the Local Improvement Scheme Integrated Funding Programme and Strategy 2018 to 2021 will contribute to supporting communities to be strong and resilient by providing a single coherent strategy to:
 - (a) Provide important opportunities to support local communities in making Nottinghamshire a great place to live, work, visit and relax.
 - (b) Help people to help themselves through encouraging volunteering and involvement in local organisations and charities.
 - (c) Promote healthier lifestyle choices.
 - (d) Build on the importance to communities and people of the value and reach of this financial support.
 - (e) Help local people to feel more in control of work taking place to improve our communities through having a single point of access for funding opportunities, as well as specifically targeted support, help and guidance.
 - (f) Encourage organisations to work in partnership to protect communities from crime and anti-social behaviour so people can be more confident about their safety.
 - (g) Encourage the protection and development of the local environment and heritage.
 - (h) Encourage a more streamlined approach for the administration of discretionary grant funding.

- (i) Support Members in their roles as community leaders to respond to local ideas that bring community and economic benefit to Nottinghamshire.

Key Features of the Local Improvement Scheme

- 8. Local Improvement Scheme Funding aims to support the best use of discretionary financial awards by delivering value for money through outcomes-focused approaches which help to deliver the Council's priorities. The new Local Improvement Scheme:
 - (a) Provides opportunities for communities to apply for revenue and capital funding.
 - (b) Sets a maximum per year for applicants for capital funding of £50,000 and £30,000 for revenue funding, with a minimum of £1,000 for each.
 - (c) Maintains a 3 year funding commitment for revenue funding, subject to satisfactory monitoring outcomes.
 - (d) Maintains an annual application process for capital funding, with an agreement that funding needs to be spent within 2 years of an application being awarded.
 - (e) Offer an annual fund to maintain support to Talented Athletes, with support from external clubs.
 - (f) Encourages applications from partnerships of voluntary and community organisations seeking to deliver countywide activities / projects.

The launch of the Local Improvement Scheme

- 9. The Local Improvement Scheme (Revenue and Capital programmes) was launched on 20 November 2017. Promotion of the Scheme was wide-ranging throughout the County, using a range of communication methods.
- 10. The Communications Team supported the launch and promotion of the Scheme through various channels including press-releases, social media (which included regular Twitter feeds), and the Council's website, from where the application forms and guidance documents could be accessed online at any time and by anyone. Interested organisations were encouraged to sign up to the Council's 'Email Me' service and a new, bespoke email banner was created to help raise the profile of the new Scheme.
- 11. Information events were also hosted at various locations within the County to provide interested organisations with an opportunity to attend a presentation about the new Scheme and ask questions face-to-face.
- 12. Promotion of the Scheme was supported by a number of cross-departmental colleagues who shared the launch information with their own contacts. The launch information was also sent directly to recent recipients of discretionary funding and to all the Elected Members, as well as to all the Parish and Town Councils.
- 13. Information about the new Local Improvement Scheme was also shared with Parish Councils at the Conference for Parish and Town Councils hosted by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

Applications received

- 14. A total of 408 applications were received. These included requests for capital and revenue funding support requesting a total of just under £7,000,000.

15. The **Appendix** to this report lists the recommended applications and includes:

- The name of the organisation
- Summary of the project
- Match funding confirmed
- Recommended amount
- Name of Councillor supporting the application.
- All applications were required to have the support of a County Councillor.

16. Applications were received from across the 7 boroughs and districts of the county. The breakdown of applications by borough / district, type of funding requested and total amount recommended is:

| District | Capital Projects | | Revenue Projects | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | No. | Amount | No. | Amount |
| Ashfield | 6 | £ 107,283 | 11 | £ 77,130 |
| Bassetlaw | 9 | £ 148,144 | 19 | £ 116,650 |
| Broxtowe | 7 | £ 112,935 | 20 | £ 140,625 |
| Gedling | 4 | £ 25,545 | 14 | £ 88,300 |
| Mansfield | 2 | £ 100,000 | 18 | £ 78,700 |
| Newark and Sherwood | 31 | £ 340,776 | 21 | £ 135,595 |
| Rushcliffe | 17 | £ 239,738 | 18 | £ 120,825 |
| Countywide Partnership | - | - | 4 | £ 412,000 |
| Totals | 76 | £1,074,421 | 125 | £1,169,825 |

17. Of the 408 applications received, 33 requested funding to purchase and erect village gateway signs, noticeboards, speed calming signs and memorials. It is recommended that these are approved in principle and that further consultation is pursued with the Highways Service on appropriate installation.

The application and assessment process

18. Each application was put through a robust process whereby applications were assessed by a pool of cross-departmental officers who had participated in bespoke training to support them in their assessor roles. Each application was assessed independently by 2 assessors and each application was scored against set criteria and assessors provided comments as appropriate.

19. Due to the nature of village gateway signs, noticeboards, speed calming signs and memorials, these schemes are subject to further work and assessment with Via Highways colleagues. They are recommended for approval in principle.

20. Because of the nature of Summer Play Schemes, additional due diligence checks were carried out for these projects.

21. All assessments were moderated to provide assurance that the assessment process had been applied in line with the guidelines and to consider comments raised throughout the assessment process.

Recommendations for Local Improvement Scheme funding

22. There are 201 recommended applications (including 33 recommended in principle), totalling up to £2,244,246. This is broken down into:
- 76 capital applications totalling £1,074,421 (including £184,597 for gateway signs in principle) are recommended for Local Improvement Scheme funding.
 - 125 revenue applications totalling £1,169,825 (including small grants) are recommended for Local Improvement Scheme funding.
23. It is recommended that approved projects are subject to the terms and conditions of the Local Improvement Scheme Agreement which has been drafted in consultation with Legal Services.
24. It is also recommended that practical support through the Communities Team is offered to organisations that have not been successful with their application.
25. It is recommended that the Capital Fund for 2019 to 2020 and the Talented Athletes fund are opened for applications from September 2018. The aspiration of the Talented Athletes Fund is to assist Nottinghamshire athletes to overcome some of the financial barriers which can exist when representing England / Great Britain. Detailed timetables are currently being devised.

Other Options Considered

26. All the applications received have undergone rigorous assessment and moderation by officers and the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Communities and Place Committee.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

27. Community groups including Parish / Town Councils and the voluntary sector of Nottinghamshire play a vital role in the well-being of County residents and the grants awarded will contribute to achieving the County Council priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

28. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

29. The Local Improvement Scheme is supported through this Committees capital and revenue budget. The allocation for 2018 to 2019 is:
- revenue budget 'Grants to Voluntary Organisations' totalling £1,690,482.
 - capital budget 'LIS' totalling £500,000.

30. To reflect the overall priorities of the Local Improvement Scheme it is recommended that £500,000 be transferred from the Committee's revenue budget to the capital budget.
31. Whilst the total applications in the sum of £2,244,246 exceeds the total revenue and capital budget allocations of £2,190,482 it is not anticipated that actual expenditure incurred will exceed the total budget available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) To establish a capital fund of £1,000,000 by transferring £500,000 from the revenue budget to the capital budget.
- 2) To request the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee to approve this transfer and to approve the amendment of the Capital Programme.
- 3) To approve the recommended funding, as outlined in paragraph 19 of this report, to 201 projects and activities listed in the **appendix** to this report.
- 4) To approve that the capital fund for 2019 to 2020 is open for applications from September 2018.
- 5) To approve the Talented Athletes fund for 2018 to 2019 and that the fund is opened for applications from September 2018.
- 6) To agree that practical support through the Communities Team is offered to the organisations not recommended for Local Improvement Scheme funding.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Cathy Harvey, Communities Team Manager, Tel: 0115 9773415

Constitutional Comments [SLB 18/04/2018]

- 32..Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [RWK 04/05/2018]

33. The financial implications are set out paragraphs 29 to 31 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Report to the Policy Committee: Local Improvement Scheme - An Integrated Funding Strategy, 15 November 201741

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.