

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2017****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE DEPARTMENT****2017/18 SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAPITAL PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the proposed 2017/18 Supporting Local Communities capital programme.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Supporting Local Communities (SLC) fund is a capital fund which is used to help various groups, organisations and volunteers deliver community-based improvement schemes. The SLC fund can only help support capital projects that deliver a new asset or improve an existing asset, such as land, buildings and play equipment. The SLC fund is not able to support schemes that are classed as revenue funding, such as training schemes, paying people's wages to deliver training or a service, or paying utility bills.
3. The SLC fund continues to successfully help deliver a significant number of community-based improvement schemes. For example, in 2016/17 the funding is planned to help deliver 36 improvements, including:
  - refurbishment of two war memorials
  - delivery of gateway signs in five villages
  - building improvements, such as the refurbishment of community/village halls, building extensions, lighting improvements and the installation of solar panels
  - environmental improvements, such as a new footbridge, youth shelter and improvements to public spaces
  - information/signpost schemes
  - public facilities, such as a new boat house, and a new outdoor performance area
  - recreational facilities, such as play parks and outdoor gym equipment
  - tourism schemes, such as a new exhibition area.
4. The 2017/18 SLC capital programme budget allocation of £492,000 was approved at the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 County Council meeting. Environment & Sustainability Committee has already determined that some of this funding would be allocated to the following types of schemes:
  - Up to £10,000 of the funding will be allocated to the refurbishment of war memorials during the period 2014/15 to 2017/18 – approved at 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Committee meeting

- Up to £20,000 of the funding will be allocated to gateway signs, such as village entry signs – approved at 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 Committee meeting.

## **Funding limits**

5. To maximise the number of schemes that can be supported, Environment & Sustainability Committee has previously determined that there will be a maximum limit on the amount of SLC funding any individual scheme can receive. These limits are:
  - £10,000 towards the cost of the restoration of war memorials
  - 50% of the cost of gateway signs (up to a maximum of £2,000 per applicant)
  - £50,000 towards the cost of any other type of scheme.
6. It should also be noted that the number of schemes receiving the higher funding limit may also be limited to ensure as many schemes as possible receive funding. Similarly, to help ensure that the funding is distributed fairly, whilst groups are not discouraged from applying, or making multiple bids, priority may be given to groups or organisations that have not previously received SLC funding.

## **Applications for SLC funding**

7. To be eligible to receive SLC funding, all schemes (including those for war memorial restorations and gateway entry signs) must make an application giving all the necessary details of the proposed scheme. To be considered for funding, all scheme suggestions must:
  - include an element of match funding and/or volunteer hours
  - be deliverable in the 2017/18 financial year
  - have no outstanding land/ownership issues to be resolved
  - have local community support
  - have mechanisms in place to fund and deliver the future maintenance of the scheme (this is not funded by the County Council)
  - have the support of the local County Council member.
8. Invitations to apply for 2017/18 SLC funding were issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016; and details on the funding were also made available on the County Council's website. The deadline for applications for SLC funding was 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and the County Council received 75 applications totalling £1.2m in value (including six gateway sign requests and two requests for war memorial restorations). A summary of the types of bids is listed below:
  - 22 requests for building improvements (e.g. village hall, meeting rooms etc.)
  - 4 requests for highway improvements (e.g. car parking facilities)
  - 16 requests for environmental improvements (including access improvements)
  - 6 requests for gateway signs
  - 5 requests for information boards/signposts
  - 20 requests for recreation equipment/facilities (e.g. play park equipment or sports/recreational improvements)
  - 2 requests for war memorial refurbishments.

## **Assessment of the applications**

9. Following a check of each application to ensure they met the criteria detailed in paragraphs 2 and 6 above; each of the eligible applications has been assessed against the previously agreed criteria (a copy of which is attached as appendix 1) in order to prioritise the applications.

### Restoration of war memorials

10. Two applications were received for war memorial refurbishments; these being in Bleasby (£3,500) and Tollerton (£1,275). The total SLC funding requested for these two schemes is £4,775 which is below the £10,000 allocation for the restoration of war memorials. It is therefore proposed that both schemes are included in the programme.

### Gateway signs

11. Applications were received for installation of nameplate type signs from six organisations. As up to £20,000 SLC funding was allocated for such signs and the maximum allocation for such signs is £2,000 per applicant it is not necessary to undertake any further prioritisation of the applications. It is therefore proposed that each of the applications is included in the programme; and applicants offered funding towards 50% of the cost of the design, production and installation of the signs (up to a maximum of £2,000 per applicant); currently estimated at £9,850.
12. Where the signs will be installed on the highway the type of sign, its design and installation location will require further approval from the County Council as highway authority. The installation of signs on the highway will also need to be undertaken by the County Council or its delivery partner.

### All other types of schemes

13. The total funding that will be offered toward the restoration of war memorials (£4,775) and gateway signs (£9,850) totals £14,625. Once this has been deducted from the SLC capital funding allocation (£492,000) it leaves a total of £477,375 SLC funding available for the remaining applications.
14. A table detailing the scoring of each application (as well as details of the war memorial and gateway sign schemes) is attached as appendix 2; and the assessment has enabled the applications to be prioritised. Given that the SLC funding available is over-subscribed, and to ensure that the greatest number of communities benefit from the limited SLC funding available, it is proposed that:
- the number of applications receiving over £40,000 SLC funding is limited to the highest scoring scheme requesting more than £40,000; any other schemes which requested more than £40,000 but scored 7.5 points or more in the assessment will be included as reserve schemes only (scheme listed as no.s 36, 37 and 42 in appendix 2)
  - applications from organisations that have received SLC funding in the last two years that have scored 7.5 points or more in the assessment will be included as reserve schemes only (scheme listed as no.s 31-35 and 38-42 in appendix 2).

The possibility of the implementation of both of these proposals was included in the application form/additional information provided to potential applicants.

15. It is therefore proposed that the schemes ranked 1 to 30 in the attached appendix 2 are taken forward for further design and feasibility work. The proposed schemes included in the 2017/18 SLC capital programme consist of:
  - Contributions towards 9 building improvements
  - Contributions towards 2 highway improvements
  - Contributions towards 4 environmental improvements
  - Contribution towards 3 information/signpost scheme
  - Contributions towards 12 recreational facilities.
16. It is also proposed that the applications ranked 31 to 42 on the attached appendix 2 will be held as reserve schemes should any funding become available during 2017/18 (e.g. because other schemes become undeliverable).
17. Each of the proposed schemes included in the 2017/18 SLC programme (war memorial restorations, gateway signs and all other types of schemes) is still subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, design and consultation. The offer of funding will also be subject to the applicant securing the necessary match funding, where this is not already in place, and the scheme being deliverable during the 2017/18 financial year. The outcomes of these issues will determine if funding can be released and to what value. If any scheme becomes undeliverable during 2017/18 the funding will not automatically be available in a future year. The scheme promoter will, however, be able to apply again for funding consideration in a future year.
18. A report to update Committee on the progress of the delivery of the 2017/18 SLC capital programme will be presented at a future Committee meeting later in the financial year.

### **Other Options Considered**

19. Other options considered are set out within this report. The package of SLC schemes detailed above were developed to reflect a balance of member, public and stakeholder requests and priorities, value for money and delivery of the County Council's objectives.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

20. The proposed programme of SLC schemes selected are the applications from organisations which have not received SLC funding in the last two financial years which scored the highest when assessed against the criteria. Restricting the number of larger value funding requests has also enabled a greater number of communities to benefit from the limited SLC funding available. The SLC programme will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure financial and delivery implications are considered and acted upon accordingly.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that Committee:

approve the proposed 2017/18 Supporting Local Communities capital programme for implementation as contained in this report and detailed in appendix 2.

**Adrian Smith - Corporate Director Place Department**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Sean Parks – Local Transport Plan manager

### **Constitutional Comments (SMG 17/02/2017)**

22. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

### **Financial Comments (GB 09/02/2017)**

23. The financial implications are set out within the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- Supporting Local Communities Fund report to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Environment & Sustainability Committee
- Supporting Local Communities Fund report to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 Environment & Sustainability Committee

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All