

26th January 2017

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE DEPARTMENT

2016/17 SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Committee on the delivery of the 2016/17 Supporting Local Communities capital programme.

Information and Advice

2. The Supporting Local Communities (SLC) programme 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, play equipment etc. 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 2016/17 SLC capital programme budget allocation of £500,000 was approved at the 25th February 2016 County Council meeting; and Environment & Sustainability Committee 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 6th March 2014 Committee meeting
 - Up to £20,000 of the funding will be allocated to gateway signs, such as village entry signs – approved at 3rd September 2015 Committee meeting.

Funding limits

4. 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
 - £2,000 per parish towards the cost of gateway signs
 - £50,000 towards the cost of any other type of scheme.

2016/17 Supporting Local Communities schemes

5. The assessment of the 72 applications received against the assessment criteria enabled SLC funding to be allocated to contributions towards 39 schemes in 2016/17 (approved at 10th March 2016 Environment & Sustainability Committee), as shown in appendix 1, including:
 - refurbishment of three war memorials
 - delivery of six gateway signs
 - nine building improvements
 - five environmental improvements
 - two information/signpost scheme
 - three public facilities
 - nine recreational facilities
 - two tourism schemes.
6. Seven schemes were also included as reserve schemes should any funding become available (e.g. because other schemes become undeliverable).
7. An update on the delivery of the 2016/17 SLC programme is also given in appendix 1. Expenditure is currently within budget and, as can be seen in appendix 1, seven schemes have been completed, 29 schemes are scheduled to be delivered between January and the end of the financial year, and three schemes will no longer progress. Whilst the three schemes that won't progress will no longer require funding, unfortunately it has not been possible to deliver any of the reserve schemes in 2016/17. This is because the County Council has received late/further invoices for schemes delivered in previous financial years relating to Lady Goodwins Corner environmental improvement scheme, as well as Eastwood and Joshua Dale skate parks.
8. Some of the proposed schemes included in the 2016/17 SLC programme are still subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, design and consultation. If any further scheme becomes undeliverable during 2016/17 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.

2017/18 Supporting Local Communities programme

9. The 2017/18 SLC funding allocation is due to be approved at the 23rd February 2017 County Council meeting. If £500,000 is allocated to SLC, as is proposed, the SLC funding limits detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4 above will continue to be applied in 2017/18.
10. Invitations to apply for 2017/18 Supporting Local Communities funding were issued on 3rd 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 16th December 2016 and the County Council has received 74 applications totalling £1.2m in value (including six gateway sign requests and two requests for war memorial restorations). A list of the 2017/18 applications received is shown in appendix 2.

11. The applications are currently being assessed against the previously agreed criteria (as shown in appendix 3) and a report will be presented at 9th March 2017 Environment & Sustainability Committee to seek approval for the 2017/18 Supporting Local Communities capital programme.

Other Options Considered

12. 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

13. The proposed programme of SLC schemes selected are the schemes which scored the highest when assessed against the criteria and are therefore considered to offer the greatest benefits. 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

14. 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

- 1) It is recommended that Committee:
Note the content of this report.

Adrian Smith - Corporate Director Place Department

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Sean Parks – Local Transport Plan manager

Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/12/2016)

15. This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (GB 23/12/2016)

16. The financial comments are set out within the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- 2015/16 Supporting Local Communities capital programme report to 6th March 2014
Environment & Sustainability Committee
- Supporting Local Communities capital programmes update report to 3rd September 2015
Environment & Sustainability Committee
- 2016/17 Supporting Local Communities capital programme report to 10th March 2016
Environment & Sustainability Committee

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All