

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 14 July 2015
Allocation of Community Pride Funds 2015-16

Accountable member	Cllr. Steve Jordan, Leader of the Council
Accountable officer	Richard Gibson, Strategy and Engagement Manager
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>As part of the 2015-16 budget, agreed by Council on 13 February 2015, £50,000 was set aside for the community pride scheme.</p> <p>In addition, a further £4,000 was added to the pot from the community development budget to create a community building grant fund.</p> <p>Both funds were made available to support neighbourhood-based projects that will build up community pride and enable local groups to be more influential in supporting their communities and improving their neighbourhoods.</p> <p>The grant schemes went live from Friday 24 April 2015 and were publicised through Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, media releases and information on the council's website. The closing date was Monday 22 June 2015 which gave applicants a 9 week period to submit applications.</p> <p>A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, Cllr. Tim Harman, Leader of the Conservative Group, Helen Down, and Richard Gibson, from the Commissioning Division met on Monday 29 June to assess the 30 community pride applications and make recommendations to cabinet.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet to approve the list of projects to be funded from community pride funds as set out in Appendix 2.</p> <p>To delegate to the Strategy and Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, how best to award the remaining funds.</p>

Financial implications	<p>Funding for the community pride scheme will come from 2015-16 budget as agreed by Council.</p> <p>Funding for the community building grant will come from the community development budget.</p> <p>Contact officer: Des Knight</p> <p>Accountant</p> <p>des.knight@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 775032</p>
Legal implications	<p>The payment of these mostly small grants does not generally require much in the way of formal documentation. However, written agreements will be used to document these grants, based on the Community Giving Grant template, with necessary adaptations for the very small grants.</p> <p>Contact officer: Donna Ruck</p> <p>Solicitor – One Legal</p> <p>donna.ruck@tewkesbury.gov.uk</p> <p>01684 272696 or 01242 774929</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>None identified</p>
Key risks	<p>If funding is allocated to an organisation that subsequently goes onto use the funding on a fraudulent basis.</p>
Corporate and community plan Implications	<p>The proposed allocations set out in appendix 2 will enable the council to deliver on the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham has a clean and well maintained environment; • Cheltenham’s natural and built environment is enhanced and protected; • Our residents enjoy a strong sense of community.
Environmental and climate change implications	<p>Out of the 19 community pride grants being awarded, 6 will enable local organisations to make a positive difference to their local environment.</p>

1. Background

- 1.1** 2015 is the ninth year of the council's community pride scheme which has allocated just over £380,000 to match-fund over 200 community-based projects that have improved and enhanced the public realm.
- 1.2** The focus of the scheme has remained resolutely on the public environment but more recent rounds have seen an added emphasis on promoting sustainability and on building-up community ownership over the environment.
- 1.3** For 2015-16 round, Cabinet were clear that the funding should once again be made available to support neighbourhood-based projects that will build up community pride and enable local groups to be more influential in supporting their communities and improving their neighbourhoods. Cabinet were also interested in using the funds to support cultural and economic projects.
- 1.4** This year we had two pots of funding:
- 1.5** Up to £50,000 was made available via community pride grants to match-fund community-led projects, up to the value of £5,000. We were particularly interested in projects that would build up community pride either through:
 - Community-led projects that will improve the physical environment of their neighbourhood;
 - Community-led projects that will bring communities together via cultural activities and celebrations;
 - Community-led projects that will increase the recognition, economic viability and sustainability of local commercial areas.
- 1.6** Up to £4,000 was also made available via community-building grants to community and voluntary sector groups to run small-scale projects, events and activities to help them support the well-being of their neighbourhood up to the value of £300.
- 1.7** The grant schemes went live from Friday 24 April 2015 and were publicised through Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, media releases and information on the council's website. The closing date was Monday 22nd June 2015 which gave applicants a x week period to submit applications.
- 1.8** A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, Cllr. Tim Harman, Helen Down, and Richard Gibson, from the Commissioning Division met on Monday 29 June to assess the 30 community pride applications and make recommendations to Cabinet.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1** Due to the large numbers of community pride applications received this year, which collectively were requesting just over £100,000 (against a total available of £50,000), the assessment panel carried out an assessment of the applications to assess the degree to which the applications met the criteria of this year's community pride fund:
 - Was the application from a community-based organisation?
 - Was the project of a permanent nature?
 - Was the project accessible at no-cost?
 - Would the project create a lasting legacy?

- Was the project neighbourhood based?
- Would the project meet a defined community need
- What the community pride funding achieve
- How would the applicant measure success
- What was the ratio of funding requested to match funding

2.2 The panel identified 19 community pride projects that could definitely answer in the positive for the majority of the criteria and agreed that they should be recommended for approval. The total sum awarded through this process totalled £33,443.

2.3 The panel also identified 4 community pride projects were the panel had questions that they would like answering before making a final decision. The total sum being held pending satisfactory answer to the questions is £14,350

2.4 The assessment of the projects is shown in **appendix 2**.

2.5 It is proposed that the remaining funds (a minimum of £2,207) are rolled over to fund community pride related community projects and that this decision be delegated to the Strategy and Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

2.6 In terms of the community building grants, 15 requests were received and it is recommended that all 15 projects are funded at a total cost of £3,930.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1 None

4. Consultation and feedback

4.1 None

5. Performance management –monitoring and review

5.1 Once approved, the council will enter into written agreements with the successful applicants which are based on the community giving grant template. This specifies that the grant recipient will submit a project monitoring report, summarising the project achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt to the Strategy and Engagement Manager on completion of the project.

Report author	Contact officer: Richard Gibson Strategy and Engagement Manager richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 235354
Appendices	1. Risk Assessment 2. Assessment of Community Pride Grants
Background information	

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	I	L	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	
CD2	If division does not put proper controls in place for the management of small grants funds, then we run the risk of funds being used inappropriately or even fraudulently	Strategy and Engagement Manager	July 2009	3	2	6	reduce	Implement and monitor small grants protocols. Develop measure of benefits arising from grants to demonstrate VFM	ongoing	Strategy and Engagement Manager	