

Cheltenham Borough Council

Community Pride Grant

Delegated decision by the Strategy and Engagement Manager in consultation with Cllr. Steve Jordan, Leader of the Council

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>Cabinet on 14 July 2015 agreed to allocate £46,293 and also agreed to delegate to the Strategy and Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, how best to award the remaining funds. They are now proposing to allocate £5,000 to a community-based project to upgrade Bath Terrace/Commercial Street car park, known as the Bath Square project.</p>
Recommendations	<p>To allocate a community pride grants as follows:</p> <p>£5,000 to Connect Regen to support the implementation of upgrade works to Bath Terrace/Commercial Street car parks.</p>
Financial implications	<p>Funding for the community pride scheme will come from 2015-16 budget as agreed by Council. Funding for the community building grant will come from the community development budget.</p> <p>Contact officer: Des Knight Accountant 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 Solicitor – One Legal donna.ruck@tewkesbury.gov.uk 01684 272696 or 01242 774929</p>

HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	None identified
Key risks	If funding is allocated to an organisation that subsequently goes onto use the funding on a fraudulent basis. This is held on the Commissioning Division Risk Register.
Corporate and community plan Implications	The health inequality grants will both help deliver the council's corporate outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People live in strong, safe and healthy communities
Environmental and climate change implications	None identified

1. Community Pride Grants

- 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. This year we had two pots of funding:
- 1.4** Up to £50,000 was made available via community pride grants to match-fund community-led projects, up to the value of £5,000.
- 1.5** 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.
- 1.6** Cabinet on 14 July 2015 agreed to allocate £46,293 of the funds and also agreed to delegate to the Strategy and Engagement Manager, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, how best to award the remaining funds.
- 1.7** In addition, an assessment of the actual spend of projects over the past three years has been carried out and this has shown that not all the funding allocated to projects has been drawn down. This has indicated a further £7k that is available to be allocated to community pride projects.

2. The Bath Square project

- 2.1** The project was put forward by Connect Regen; this group was borne out of a pre-existing partnership – Connect Streets – consisting of two community groups, Cheltenham Connect and the St Philip and St James Area Residents Association (SPJARA), and the Bath Road Traders Association (BaRTA).
- 2.2** The Bath Square project builds on community-led improvement work in the Bath Road such as tree planting, art work, decoration of utility boxes and new planters. There is wide-spread agreement among the community and traders that the next step should be action to improve the environment of the Bath Terrace and Commercial Street car parks for all concerned.

- 2.3** The car park is used by hundreds of people a day, hundreds more walk through it. Local residents live around it. It is a much used public space that functions as a standard car park only. It fails to meet the wider needs of the community. Connect Regen’s vision is to transform into an attractive public space that will benefit many people.
- 2.4** As well as parking, it is proposed that it will contain extensive tree planting and other greenery, a sustainable urban drainage system, public loos with green technology, a recycling centre and a canopy supporting solar panels and making a sheltered space for a Sunday market, community events, public art etc.
- 2.5** This initiative will benefit the local community and increase the attraction of shopping in the Bath Road and the Suffolks. It will build community pride across this part of Cheltenham, and hopefully spur similar improvements elsewhere in the town.
- 2.6** Additional match-funding will come from Local Sustainability Transport Fund, plus Pro bono contributions of professional time.
- 2.7** The Strategy and Engagement Manager has consulted with the Leader of the Council and are both of the opinion that this project meets the community pride criteria and therefore have agreed to allocate £5,000 to the Bath Square project.

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

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
CD.2 -	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	March 2010	3	2	6	Reduce	implement and monitor small grants protocol	ongoing	Strategy and Engagement Manager	Commissioning Division
<p>Explanatory notes</p> <p>Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)</p> <p>Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6 (1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)</p> <p>Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close</p>											