

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 9 October 2018
Allocation of the Community Pride Fund 2018/19

Accountable member	Cllr Steve Jordan, Leader of the Council
Accountable officer	Helen Down, Participation and Engagement Team Leader
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>£30,000 was set aside for the Community Pride Fund as part of the 2018/19 budget, agreed by Council in February 2018. A further £4000 from the community development budget was added to the total to create a community building grant fund.</p> <p>The funding has been made available to support community-owned projects that will build up community pride and enable local groups to be more influential in supporting their communities and improving their neighbourhoods in support of the place vision and ambitions for Cheltenham.</p> <p>The fund was open for applications for 7 weeks from 27 July until 14 September 2018 and was publicised through Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, media releases and information on the council's website.</p> <p>A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Richard Gibson, Louise Forey and Helen Down from the Strategy and Engagement Team met on Thursday 19 September to assess the 19 Community Pride applications and 9 Community Building applications and to make recommendations to Cabinet.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet to approve the list of projects to be funded from the Community Pride Fund as set out in Appendix 2.</p> <p>To delegate to the Participation and Engagement Team Leader, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, how best to award any remaining funds.</p>

Financial implications	<p>Funding for the community pride scheme will come from the 2018/19 budget as agreed by Council. Funding for the community building grants will come from the community development 'small grants' budget.</p> <p>Contact officer: Jon Whitlock, Jon.Whitlock@publicagroup.uk</p> <p>01242 26 4354</p>
Legal implications	<p>Written agreements will be used to document these grants, as have been used in previous years, with necessary adaptations for the very small grants.</p> <p>The Council needs to ensure that it complies with the rules about state aid whenever giving financial assistance. Financial assistance will be state aid if it could be considered that the assistance would be likely to affect trade between the member states of the European Union. As the grants are to be given for local community activities, it is highly unlikely that the grants would be considered to be unlawful state aid.</p> <p>Contact officer: Donna Ruck, donna.ruck@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272696</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	None identified.
Key risks	Fraudulent use of the funding by organisations.
Corporate and community plan Implications	<p>The allocations proposed in Appendix 2 will enable the council to deliver on the following ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham enables business growth by being better connected; • Champions physical and mental wellbeing; • Cheltenham is internationally renowned for its culture, heritage, food and sport.
Environmental and climate change implications	3 of the 13 community pride grants and 1 of the 9 community building grants being awarded will enable local organisations to make a positive difference in their local environment.
Property/Asset Implications	None identified

1. Background

- 1.1** The council's Community Pride Fund is now in its twelfth year of existence. This year, the fund is being used to support the place vision and ambitions for Cheltenham through community owned projects that build community pride and enable local groups to be more influential in supporting their communities and improving their neighbourhoods.
- 1.2** Up to £30,000 was made available for community pride grants to match fund the following, on a 50% basis, up to the value of £5000:
- Community-led projects that enable local businesses and their workforces to thrive
 - Community-led projects that enable people and communities to thrive and that support physical and mental wellbeing
 - Community-led projects that enable culture and creativity to thrive in Cheltenham
- 1.3** Up to £4000 was also made available via community building grants of up to £300 to run small scale projects and events and activities to help groups support the well-being of their neighbourhood.
- 1.4** The fund was open for applications for 7 weeks from 27 July until 14 September 2018 and was publicised through Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, media releases and information on the council's website.
- 1.5** A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Richard Gibson, Louise Forey and Helen Down from the Strategy and Engagement Team met on Thursday 19 September to assess the 19 Community Pride applications and 9 Community Building applications and to make recommendations to Cabinet.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1** The total amount requested this year from the 19 community pride applications was £80,474. The panel assessed them against this year's criteria for the community pride fund which were:
- The project's contribution to our place vision and ambitions;
 - The project's value for money in terms of its community benefits versus the amount of grant requested;
 - That the project will meet an identifiable need or build on an opportunity;
 - What will the project achieve;
 - What the longer-term legacy of this project will be;
 - Accessibility at no cost to the general public;
 - Match funding of 50% of the project cost in place.
- 2.2** The panel identified 14 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 was £30,274.

- 2.3** Of this £30,274, £18,842 is being held pending satisfactory answers to questions which the panel had, or evidence of costings.
- 2.4** The assessment of the community pride projects is shown in **appendix 2**.
- 2.5** Regarding the £18,842 being held pending, if satisfactory answers to the panel's questions or evidence of costings requested by the panel cannot be provided for any reason, then it is proposed that any remaining funds are rolled over to fund community pride related community projects and that this decision be delegated to the Participation and Engagement Team Leader, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- 2.6** In terms of the community building grants, 9 requests were received and it is recommended that all 9 projects are funded, plus one of the community pride fund applications from the Holocaust Memorial Day Act of Remembrance Committee, which gives a total allocation of £2,730.
- 2.7** The assessment of the community building projects is detailed in **appendix 3**.
- 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 as in previous years. This specifies that the grant recipient will submit a project monitoring report, summarising the project achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt to the Participation and Engagement Team Leader on completion of the project.

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk Assessment 2. Assessment of community pride applications 3. Assessment of community building applications
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