

Cheltenham Borough Council
Allocation of the Community Pride Fund 2019
Delegated decision by Cllr Steve Jordan, Leader of the Council

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 2019/20 budget, agreed by Council in February 2019. 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 from Friday 12th April to Friday 7th June 2019, allowing 8 weeks for organisations to apply. It was publicised through Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, media releases, social media and information on the council's website.</p> <p>A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Richard Gibson, Louise Forey and Helen Down from the Strategy and Engagement Team met on 19 June 2019 to assess the 28 Community Pride applications and 7 Community Building applications and to make recommendations to Cabinet.</p>																			
Recommendations	To allocate community pride grants as follows:																			
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6. Cheltenham Trust (Wilson Arts Collective)	Alternative Art & Performance for Young People aged 13 - 19 years.	£3000
7. Prestbury Parish Council	New Prestbury Community Open Space - community seating and tree protectors.	£1000
8. SPACE (St Pauls Activities, Community & Events)	Summer Activities - for children in the summer holidays.	£1400
9. University of Gloucestershire	Discover Cheltenham's Wildlife	£940
10. Cheltenham Neighbourhood Watch Association	New CNHWA website: improvement in availability and content	£1500
11. Friends of Hatherley Park	Pitch Perfect - a boules pitch with notice board and benches	£2500
12. Goals Beyond Grass	Goals Beyond Grass Outreach Program - Cheltenham, taking powerchair football to care homes, adult opportunity centres and SEN schools.	£2400
13. Holst Birthplace Trust	Holst on the move - creation of 2 loans boxes for outreach sessions	£2000
14. Midsummer Fiesta	Midsummer Fiesta 2020	£2000
15. G Café	G Café - development of garden and Green Gym	£3000
16. St Pauls Residents Association	St Paul's Parties and Parades - a street party, and Advent Lantern Parade and craft workshops.	£1725
17. Hesters Way Partnership	Creative West - Easter and Summer holiday scheme for 2010 for 5 - 16 year olds to learn practical skills and produce creative work across a range of venues.	£3100
		£32,255

To allocate community building grants as follows:

Organisation	Project	amount agreed
1. Benhall Residents Association	Benhall Playing Out - closure of Bisley Road to allow children to play out safely on 13 July 2019.	£225
2. Oakley Residents Association	Oakley Fun Day - to launch new scooter park.	£300
3. Vision 21	Sewing Circles - to encourage repairing and reuse of materials	£300
4. Friends of Hatherley Park	Celebrate 80 in the Park! An event to mark Hatherley Park's 80th anniversary.	£300
5. Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project	Springbank Summer Fair	£300
6. St Pauls Residents Association	St Paul's Road Area residents' association (SPRA) & St Paul's NCG meetings and dissemination of information.	£300

7. Holocaust Memorial Day Act of Remembrance Committee	Act of Remembrance 27 January 2020 to mark National Holocaust Memorial Day and 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.	£300
		£2025

To delegate to the Participation and Engagement Team Leader, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, how best to award any remaining funds.

Financial implications	<p>Funding for the community pride scheme will come from the 2019/20 budget as agreed by Council. Funding for the community building grants will come from the community development 'small grants' budget. The additional £2,255 will be funded from historical grants which were never claimed.</p> <p>Contact officer: Jon Whitlock, Jon.Whitlock@publicagroup.uk 01242 264354</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. If the grants are deemed to be unlawful state aid, the recipient would be required to pay back the grant.</p> <p>Contact officer: Donna Ruck, donna.ruck@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272696</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>There are no direct HR implications identified in this report.</p> <p>Contact officer: Carmel Togher, HR Business Partner, carmel.togher@publicagroup.uk 01242 264391</p>
Key risks	Fraudulent use of the funding by organisations.
Corporate and community plan Implications	<p>The allocations proposed in the summary will enable the council to deliver on the following priorities in the Corporate Strategy 2019 - 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing the revitalisation and improvement of our public spaces • Investing to build resilient communities
Environmental and climate change implications	5 of the 17 successful community pride grants and 1 of the 7 community building grants being awarded will enable local organisations to make a positive difference in their local environment.

Property/Asset Implications	None identified
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1. Background

- 1.1** The council's Community Pride Fund is now in its thirteenth 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. It is also supporting the No Child Left Behind year of action through supporting projects that target inequality and help to reduce the impact of children growing up in poverty.
- 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
 - Community-led projects that target inequality and help to reduce the impact of children growing up in poverty.
- 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 8 weeks from Friday 12th April to Friday 7th June 2019 and was publicised through Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, media releases, social media and information on the council's website.
- 1.5** A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, Richard Gibson, Louise Forey and Helen Down from the Strategy and Engagement Team met on 19 June 2019 to assess the 28 Community Pride applications and 7 Community Building applications and to make recommendations to Cabinet.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1** The total amount requested this year from the 28 community pride applications was £92,549. The panel assessed them against this year's criteria for the community pride fund which were:
- Projects led by any parish council, constituted voluntary sector, community or neighbourhood based organisation.
 - 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 17 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 £32,255. It is proposed that the additional £2255 over and above the £30,000 will be made up from historical grants which were never claimed.

2.3 The assessment of the community pride projects is shown in **appendix 2**.

2.4 In terms of the community building grants, 7 requests were received and it is recommended that all 7 projects are funded, which gives a total allocation of £2,025. These are listed 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.

Report author	Contact officer: Helen Down, helen.down@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264272
Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk Assessment 2. Assessment of community pride applications 3. Summary 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