

**Cheltenham Borough Council**  
**Cabinet – 5 February 2013**  
**Allocation of Community Pride Funds 2012/13**

<b>Accountable member</b>	<b>Cllr. Steve Jordan, Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Accountable officer</b>	<b>Richard Gibson, Strategy and Engagement Manager</b>
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Executive summary</b>	<p>As part of the decision made by Cabinet on 25 September 2012 to allocate the New Homes Bonus - Environmental Improvement Fund, it was agreed to set aside £38,500 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 16<sup>th</sup> November and were publicised through Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, media releases and information on the council's website. The closing date was Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013 which gave applicants an 8 week period to submit applications.</p> <p>A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Housing, Safety and Communities, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, Helen Down, Hannah Wright and Richard Gibson, from the Commissioning Division met on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January to evaluate the 30 applications and make recommendations to cabinet.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>Cabinet to approve the list of projects to be funded from community pride funds as set out in appendix 2 and community building grants as set out in appendix 3.</b></p> <p><b>Cabinet notes that the decision to determine how best to allocate the remaining funds will be taken by the Leader</b></p>

<b>Financial implications</b>	<p>Funding for the community pride scheme will come from the New Homes Bonus and will follow recommendations already made by Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Funding for the community building grant will come from the community development budget.</p> <p><b>Contact officer: Des Knight</b></p> <p><b>Accountant</b></p> <p><b>des.knight@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 775032</b></p>
<b>Legal implications</b>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Contact officer: Donna Ruck</b></p> <p><b>Solicitor – One Legal</b></p> <p><b>donna.ruck@tewkesbury.gov.uk</b></p> <p><b>01684 272696 or 01242 774929</b></p>
<b>HR implications (including learning and organisational development)</b>	<p>None identified</p>
<b>Key risks</b>	<p>If funding is allocated to an organisation that subsequently goes onto use the funding on a fraudulent basis.</p>
<b>Corporate and community plan Implications</b>	<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"> <li>• Cheltenham has a clean and well maintained environment;</li> <li>• Cheltenham’s natural and built environment is enhanced and protected;</li> <li>• Our residents enjoy a strong sense of community.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental and climate change implications</b>	<p>Out of the 16 grants being awarded, 15 will enable local organisations to make a positive difference to their local environment.</p>

## **1. Background**

- 1.1** 2011 will be the sixth year of the council's community pride scheme which has allocated just over £230,000 to match-fund over 100 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 2012/13 round, Cabinet were clear that the funding should 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 the council had two pots of funding available:
- 1.4** Up to £38,500 was made available to match-fund neighbourhood-based improvement projects, up to the value of £5,000. We were particularly interested in projects that would build up community ownership and stewardship over the local green and built environment and that would promote sustainability.
- 1.5** Up to £4,000 was 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 £250.
- 1.6** The grant schemes went live from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November and were publicised through Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, media releases and information on the council's website. The closing date was Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013 which gave applicants an 8 week period to submit applications.
- 1.7** A panel comprising the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Housing, Safety and Communities, Angela Gilbert from Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action, Helen Down, Hannah Wright and Richard Gibson, from the Commissioning Division met on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January to evaluate 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 £95,000 (against a total available of £38,500), 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 16 community pride projects that could 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 £31,945. The assessment of the projects is shown in **appendix 2**.
- 2.3** There are two bids where more information has been requested from the applicants before a final decision can be made in line with the second recommendation. These are applications from:
- Friends of the Honeybourne Line
  - Friends of Leckhampton Hill
- 2.4** It is proposed that any remaining funds are rolled over into the new financial year to complement the proposed community pride fund of £50,000 set out in the cabinet’s draft budget for 2013-14.
- 2.5** In terms of the community building grants, 16 requests were received. The panel agreed to fund 14 of these at £250 each; two requests from Vision 21 and the Montpellier Traders Association will be reviewed by officers to ensure that they are supporting community building activities, but a final decision on these will be made by the Leader of the Council in line with the second recommendation.

**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 succesful 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.

<b>Report author</b>	<b>Contact officer:</b> <b>Richard Gibson</b> <b>Strategy and Engagement Manager</b> <b>richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk,</b> <b>01242 235354</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	1. Risk Assessment 2. Assessment of Community Pride Grants 3. Community Building Grants
<b>Background information</b>	

**Risk Assessment**

**Appendix 1**

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