

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Extraordinary Council on 5 September 2023

District Councillor Community Grant Scheme

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy and Communications

Classification	This report is Public.
Report By	Pam Brown Director Executive, Customer Services, HR and Payroll and Partnerships
Contact Officer	As above

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To gain approval for a budget of £37,000 per annum to be allocated for the above Councillor Community Grant Scheme.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 During 2022/2023, a one-off budget for £37,000 was agreed by Members. This enabled each District Councillor to support their local community groups and organisations for services and activities within their Ward, up to a value of £1,000 each Councillor.
- 1.2 The grant scheme was well utilised by members and numerous local communities have benefited. **Appendix 1** contains the statistics.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 After taking into account the positive outcomes and impact achieved by the small grant scheme, it is proposed to continue with the scheme on an annual basis.
- 2.2 This would require the budget of £37,000 per annum to be added to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) each year to enable the scheme to continue. However, as with any other revenue budget within the MTFP, if the allocation isn't utilised in year, the balance will not be carried over into the following year.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Having the evidence of the positive impact and benefit to local communities it is proposed to continue the scheme across the district.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 An option to discontinue with the scheme has been considered, however, in the current climate and the cost-of-living crisis affecting our local residents, it is a small way in which the District Council can support the smaller groups and organisations in our district in difficult times.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Council agree to a budget of £37,000 for the District Councillor Community Grant Scheme and for this to be added to the Medium-Term Financial Plan on an annual basis.

Approved by Councillor Steve Fritchley, Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy and Communications

IMPLICATIONS.

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The cost of this proposal will be an extra cost to the General Fund of £37,000 per year. Previous schemes have been closed due to the budget not being fully spent and the amount of administration taken to manage the scheme. As with all revenue budgets, any under spend at 31st March will be moved into balances, there will not be any rolling over of budgets to the next financial year.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a local authority may incur expenditure where it will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies.</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	ALL
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Details:

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</p>
<p>The District Councillor Community Grant Scheme enables, through it's grant awards to support all of the Council's ambitions.</p>

<p>DOCUMENT INFORMATION</p>	
<p>Appendix No 1</p>	<p>Title Grant awards and Impact measurement into local district wards</p>

<p>Background Papers</p>
<p><i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>
<p>N/A</p>

Appendix 1

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME 2022/23

In total 111 awards of funding were made.

Beneficiaries targeted:-

- Everyone 53
- Families 20
- Older People 9
- Young People 29

Amounts Awarded:-

- 68 grants approved between £50 - £250.
- 29 grants approved between £251 - £500.
- 14 grants approved between £501 - £1000.

Grants were used for a wide variety of activity including:-

- Christmas events
- Community events (e.g. Outdoor family theatre shows, Coronation celebrations and dance events)
- Warm spaces/meals
- Physical activity sessions
- Equipment (e.g. Pool, Snooker and Cricket equipment, Toys, Youth club provision)
- Capital expenditure (e.g. Outdoor spaces, repair of paths, creation of a peace garden)
- Transport
- Youth activities