

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

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**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** Monday 11 January, 2016  
**Subject:** Community Grant Allocations  
**Report of:** Parish Liaison Officer  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Rosita Page, Portfolio Holder for Communities  
**Status:** For Decision

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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit the recommendations on funding allocations for the Community Grant Fund from the Member Grants Panel meeting of 30 November 2015, to the Executive. The Executive is asked to approve the recommendations of the Member Grant Panel.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 **To approve the Community Grants as recommended in Appendix A from Community Grant funding.**
- 2.2 **To consider the recommendation from the Grant Panel to award £12,000 to the Whittle Trust from Community Grant funding, noting the circumstances surrounding the Whittle Plane at Lutterworth set out in 4.8.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The Member Grants Panel considered all of the projects recommended for funding in line with the criteria set out in the Community Grant Fund grant guidance notes. The recommendations also take into account the comments made by Officers through the Officer Grant Panel held on 2 November 2015. The recommendations are set out in Appendix A with one exception.
- 3.2 The rationale and conditions for Application 002 Lutterworth Whittle Plane is set out in the body of this report due to the special circumstances surrounding this case.

4 Key Facts

- 4.1 The Council's Community Grants are funded through the New Homes Bonus received by the Council. This is a national initiative designed to ensure that the economic benefits for housing growth are returned to the Councils and communities where that growth takes place.
- 4.2 On 13 July 2015 the Executive allocated £95,000 to the Community Grant Fund for 2015/16. The Executive agreed Community Grants will continue to be an inclusive

fund, open to all parishes and voluntary and community groups, and be closely linked to Council priorities.

- 4.3 The grant window for the Community Grants closed in October 2015. All parishes were informed. Officers at Harborough District Council as well as the Voluntary and Community Sector were asked to disseminate the information to any other group or organisation who may wish to bid for this money.
- 4.4 To support the grant process a grant surgery was held on 19 October which was rated 'excellent' by 8/11 voluntary and community groups that attended. This brought together a panel of funders to give initial feedback on projects seeking funding. To further support community groups to seek match funding the Council's Community Grant application form is very similar to that of other funders, reducing duplication and enabling Council grants to potentially go further.
- 4.5 The Grants Process has two stages. The first stage is the Officer Grant Panel. The panel is made up of officers from different departments at Harborough District Council each with an insight into community provision in their own field. They meet to discuss the projects and offer comments, scoring all applications against the criteria set out in the Guidance Notes. This meeting was held on Monday 2 November 2015.
- 4.6 The second stage is the Member Grant Panel. This panel considers the applications and utilises the Officer Grant Panel's comments, to assist them in making recommendations for the Executive.
- 4.7 The Member Grant Panel took place on Monday 30 November 2015. 37 applications were discussed. A recommendation on the allocation of funding was made for each application as set out in Appendix A.
- 4.8 With regards to Application 002 for essential maintenance to the Lutterworth Whittle Plane the Member Panel noted comments from Officers that the project did not meet the aims of the grant as strongly as other applications. However, the Member Grant Panel felt that a grant should be awarded on the following special grounds;
- To recognise the work of the Whittle Trust and public support in efforts to preserve an 'iconic' landmark within the district.
  - To support the pump priming of essential maintenance needed to get the plane to a good state of repair in order to secure longer term sponsorship and sustainability.
  - That this should be a one-off grant and the Trust should not seek further grant funding from the Council.
  - Release of this funding is subject to the remaining funding being secured and the work completed in 18months.
  - Due to the specialist nature of the work needed the Member Grant Panel were satisfied that 2 final quotes would be sufficient rather than the usual 3.
  - All other standard terms and conditions apply.

#### Summary of Grant Panel recommendation

Community Grant Ref No	Organisation	Project	Total amount for project	Amount requested from CGF	Member Grant Panel Recommendation
002 GCF R1 15/16	Whittle Trust	Lutterworth Whittle Plane	£20,000	£16,000	<b>£12,000</b>

- 5     Legal Issues
- 5.1    The Community Grant fund is funded from the New Homes Bonus. This is not ring-fenced money and it is down to the Council to decide how this is utilised.
- 6     Resource Issues
- 6.1    The resources to deliver the grants process are met within existing resources, supported by an additional £5,000 from the New Homes Bonus to support capacity building of the voluntary and community sector and the administration of the grants process.
- 7     Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes
- 7.1    Equality is addressed within the application criteria.
- 7.2    The Application form and guidance notes are designed to be user friendly and have been agreed in consultation with the Councils Equalities Officer.
- 7.3    The process is communicated widely to all who could potentially gain from these grants. There is a communication plan for the Community Grants fund.
- 7.4    Applicants are required to demonstrate that their projects are accessible to all and would not have a detrimental impact on any of the groups of protected characteristics.
- 8     Impact on the Organisation
- 8.1    There should be a positive impact on the organisation as Harborough District Council are seen to be providing financial assistance to projects that will benefit our local communities as a result of development.
9.     Risk Management Implications
- 9.1    All successful applications will be bound by Terms and Conditions that aim to minimise risk and promote best value. In addition, applicants must demonstrate as part of their application that their organisation has the appropriate governance arrangements and skill sets to carry out the named project. The Member Grants Panel also consider financial risk, with higher priority to applicants who submit evidence of a full funding package. The application form includes a checklist.
- 10    Consultation
- 10.1   Applicants are required to demonstrate that consultation with their local community has taken place and that the community are supportive of their proposals.
- 11    Options Considered
- 11.1   The Member Grants Panel considered each application and recommendations have been made based on the merits of each individual case.
- 12    Background Papers
- 12.1   Minutes of the Member Grant Panel 30 November 2015

- 12.2 Summary Sheet of information for all 37 applications
  - 12.3 Summary Sheet of all supporting documents received for all 37 grants
  - 12.4 Officer Grant Panel Summary Sheet for 37 applications
  - 12.5 Community Grants Guidance Notes
  - 12.6 37 Community Grant Application Forms and supporting documents
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**Previous report(s):** - New Homes Bonus Review, Executive, 13 July 2015

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: N**

**Ward Members Notified: Yes**

**Appendices:**

**A Recommendations from the Member Grants Panel 30.11.15**