

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPUTY LEADER AND ENVIRONMENT AND WELLBEING CABINET MEMBERS

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND – ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT SCHEME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and approve the proposed Enhancing Our Environment scheme
- 1.2 To approve the allocation of funding for the scheme from the Enhanced and Prosperous Communities Fund

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council is committed to cutting our carbon footprint and reducing the impact we have on our environment. The council can boast significant success to date to these ends – reducing our carbon footprint by 33% over the last three years with an ambitious target to reduce our carbon footprint by 45% by 2022.
- 2.2 We have ambitious plans for the best future. We have developed a Green Strategy and a new Local Plan for all of North Lincolnshire. We are looking to enable all communities to play a part in making a real difference by taking local action to achieve positive environmental impacts. The 'Enhancing our Environment' scheme aims to support this aspiration.
- 2.3 Led by the council's outcomes and priorities, five key areas where the council could help communities take action are as follows:
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - Community orchards and tree planting
 - Clean energy for community buildings
 - Community composting
 - Sustainable travel planning for communities
- 2.4 Available to apply for by all not for profit, properly constituted organisations that have social aims, the proposal is that the Cabinet Members agree an allocation of £150,000 from the Enhanced and Prosperous Communities Fund to enable community action. To be successful, applications would need to meet one or more of following criteria:
 - Reductions in water use from mains fed sources.
 - Increase in tree cover and biodiversity.

- Reduction in the use of carbon emissions and fossil fuels.
- Reduction in waste entering the waste stream.
- Increase in journey/car sharing and reduction in fossil fuelled miles travelled.

Applicants will also be required to meet other criteria consistent with the existing Community Grants application process.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The options available to the Cabinet Members are as follows:

- To approve the scheme as proposed;
- To approve a reduced level of funding for the scheme
- To not approve the scheme

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Approval of the scheme will enable communities to take ownership of key environmental issues. It will enable improvements that can act as 'showcase' examples of what is possible in communities whilst making a real contribution to achieving positive environmental impacts across North Lincolnshire.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 The council will allocate £150,000 of Community Grant funding from the Enhanced and Prosperous Communities Fund to support this scheme. The budget remaining for Enhanced and Prosperous Communities will be £397,705.

5.1.2 There are no other resource issues to consider.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Applications to the Community Grants Fund take into consideration the Equality Act 2010.

6.2 The scheme has potential to deliver real changes that make a significant contribution to the councils 'Well' outcome (cleaner and greener spaces, good health and wellbeing, improved quality of life) and 'Connected' outcome (flourishing communities, strong sense of pride and belonging). It delivers on the council's 'Enabling Communities to Flourish' priority by assisting communities to become more involved in community life, providing communities with more choice and control about what happens and contributes to creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, get on well together and support each other.

6.3 The scheme should deliver environmental benefits consistent with those set out above.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Engagement with representatives of community groups confirm significant support for the proposal. The Local Government Association have also indicated their support for the proposal.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Cabinet Members consider and approve the proposed scheme as set out within this report.

9.2 The Cabinet Members approve the allocation of funding amounting to £150,000 from the Enhanced and Prosperous Communities Fund.

DIRECTOR: OPERATIONS

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None