

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES – RURAL CABINET MEMBER

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND – SPRING IN BLOOM 2020/21

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and approve an extension of the “North Lincolnshire in Bloom” Scheme and to offer grant aid to community groups and town and parish councils to support their spring planting.
- 1.2 To approve an allocation of funding from the Community Grant Fund to support the scheme.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council first invited community groups and town and parish councils to participate in the ‘North Lincolnshire in Bloom’ initiative in 2017/18. The scheme was developed to engage communities in the creation of planting displays that would visually enhance the local area for both residents and visitors. In doing so the scheme provided opportunities for communities to participate in competitions such as the ‘CPRE Best Kept Village’.
- 2.2 Further development of the scheme, funded from the Community Grant Fund, has provided additional investment supporting our priority of Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities by encouraging volunteering and giving local people a sense of pride in their area through creating an almost year-round floral display for residents and welcoming visitors.
- 2.3 The Community Grant Fund offered grant aid towards the initial cost of providing attractive planters, flowers and shrubs. Financial upkeep and on-going maintenance was to be met through town and parish councils working with local businesses and volunteers from within the local community.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 - Approve the extension of the “North Lincolnshire in Bloom” Scheme for the winter season and to offer grant aid to community groups and town and parish councils to support their spring planting.

3.2 Approve a maximum allocation of £17,000 revenue and £8,000 capital from the Community Grant Fund to support the scheme. The appropriate funding stream will be determined by the type of support requested.

3.3 Option 2 - Do not approve an extension of the scheme and allocation of funding.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 - Approving the extension to the scheme and offering an allocation of revenue and capital funding to promote spring planting extends the support to groups enabling further community engagement and promotes a sense of pride in their local area.

4.2 Option 2 - By not approving the extension to the scheme the funding will remain in the Community Grant Fund for the consideration of community grant applications as they arise.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 A maximum allocation of £17,000 of Community Grant revenue funding is proposed to support the spring planting. A further allocation of £8,000 capital is proposed if expenditure is eligible as appropriate in line with the Council’s Capitalisation Policy.

5.1.1 Community Grant Fund – Revenue

| Total Budget 2020/21 £ | Commitments to date £ | Balance £ | Sum Recommended £ |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 44,000 | 15,353 | 28,647 | 17,000 |

*Individual grants of £3,000 have previously been deferred pending confirmation of new event dates.

**Balance includes community grant recommendations pending approval

5.1.2 Community Grant Fund – Capital

| Total Budget 2020/21 £ | Commitments to date £ | Balance £ | Sum Recommended £ |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1,050,000 | 276,645 | 773,355 | 8,000 |

*Balance includes community grant recommendations pending approval

5.2 Community Grant Fund revenue is funded from income generated by Lincs Lotto in support of local “good causes”.

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

6.1 The community grant fund criteria includes compliance with relevant legislation and supports the priorities set out in the council plan, notably Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities.

6.2 Applicants will be required to evidence that their approach to spring planting is Covid secure.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No conflicts of interest identified.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the extension of the North Lincolnshire in Bloom Scheme be approved and grant aid to a maximum of £17,000 revenue and £8,000 capital be offered to community groups, town and parish councils to support their spring planting.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –