

Leighton- Linslade Partnership Committee

6 February 2020

CBC COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR GRANTS

Report of: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Purpose of this report

To update Members of the Partnership Committee on the Central Bedfordshire Community Councillor grant schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leighton- Linslade Partnership Committee is asked to:

1. Note the report

1. Community asset grant scheme

The Community Assets Grant Scheme was launched on Tuesday 17 December. The scheme worth £182,000 in 2019/20 aims to help local voluntary and community organisations, town and parish councils make projects a reality by offering matched-funding grants of up to £25k to enable them to invest in community assets / facilities.

The grant scheme is open to a range of Central Bedfordshire organisations, including parish and town councils and voluntary and community groups.

The Community Assets grant scheme is designed to:

- help local voluntary and community organisations to deliver their ambitions with access grant funding to support community infrastructure improvements in their communities.
- enable investment in community assets (such as community buildings / community facilities/community infrastructure) which support the social wellbeing of the local community.

- improve community facilities; or

- create new community facilities that will benefit local residents and encourage community cohesion.

£182,000 is available to be released through bidding rounds, giving groups time to develop their proposals, with the first bidding round now open and which closes at 12pm on 28 February 2020. The grants must be used for capital funding projects for investment in new or upgrades to community assets and facilities. The criteria are published on the website with detailed guidance to support applicants.

It is a requirement that the group seeking a grant from the Community Asset grant scheme must provide 50% of the total project costs, from another source. Eligible match funding can be private donations, contributions in cash or in kind from local companies, (as long as the £value can be evidenced) charitable trusts and of course the Lottery.

Once the application has passed the eligibility check it will be scored by officers using the criteria and scoring system. Officers will score an application. A decision will be made by the Director of Resources based on the scores and consideration of geographical impact and within available funding limits. Approved and funded projects are subject to a legally enforceable Grant Agreement.

The Community Assets Grant Scheme, which is in addition to the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme which was launched in October, is another way we can support the many organisations and groups who benefit the people of Central Bedfordshire.

2. Ward Councillor Grant Scheme

This scheme was launched in October. It comprises a £2,000 allocation to each Ward Councillor and is designed to help ward councillors, local people and organisations to deliver their ambitions with access grant funding to support activities in their communities and

- Enable councillors to collaborate and combine their allocations in order to support larger project bids (potentially up to £6k in a ward with three Councillors).
- Encourage and lever contributions from other sources to raise 50% of the total costs of schemes.
- The award of small grants will empower Ward Councillors to make things happen and deliver positive outcomes in and for their communities.
- Local groups can access support to tackle local issues, make improvements and enable communities to do more for themselves.

At the time of writing this report 37 applications to the scheme have been received with only 2 unfortunately being deemed as ineligible.

Future funding for both schemes will be subject to budget decision making.