

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

DIRECTORATE: LEGAL AND COMMUNITY

1. DECISION TAKEN

The approval of funding awards to the following bodies:

- Royston Day Centre - £50,000
- Therfield Sports pavilion - £50,000 in principle
- Ashwell Museum - £46,000
- Ickleford Sports & Social Club - £50,000 in principle

under the Community Facilities Capital Grant Funding Scheme (subject to the awards complying with the caveats recommended by the Member Capital Grants Panel which sat on 27th March 2019).

2. DECISION TAKER

Jeanette Thompson – Service Director: Legal and Community

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

10th April 2019

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel held on 27th March 2019 considered funding applications from the groups listed above and recorded the recommendations to the Service Director: Legal and Community for the formal commitment of capital funds to each of the respective facilities listed above, via the delegated authority process, subject to the considerations noted at paragraph 7 below.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this sheet and the accompanying supporting documents relating to the comments and suggested views of the Capital Grants Panel.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation with the respective ward Members has occurred in connection with the Community Facilities seeking capital funding awards via the scheme.

6.2 Consultation with the respective management association / committee of each of the facilities has taken place and subsequently the funding proposals / caveats that the Capital Grants Panel considered and suggested have provisionally been shared with the respective applicants.

7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Royston Day Centre

Members agreed to support an award of **£50,000** without conditions.

The building is owned by North Hertfordshire District Council, the Day Centre is managed by a voluntary board of trustees and a part time paid manager. They have

a lease on the building from NHDC which has at least 10 years left and this means the application could be considered in line with the Capital grant criteria. The building was last refurbished on or around 30 years ago. The grant was required to part fund improvements to lighting, toilets (to be Disability Discrimination Act compliant) and the kitchen. The Day Centre will be providing the balance of the funds for the improvement of the building through the Centre's own funds and fund-raising locally. The Capital Grants Panel noted that NHDC has a duty of care to an unusual and valuable asset which it owns.

The Centre is used predominantly as a day centre for elderly people living in the local area. However, extra income is raised from hiring the centre in the evenings a weekends for a wide range of community activities, health and well being based classes and private parties.

7.2 Therfield Sports Pavilion

Members agreed to support an award of **£50,000**, in principle, subject to provision of the following:

1. Sight of the lease agreement;
2. Planning permission is granted; and
3. £100k of external funding is secured.

The grant is for the part provision of a replacement building, other funding support being sought from Sport England and is supported by Cambridgeshire Cricket.

The Pavilion will provide a much needed community resource in terms of a venue for a wide range of sporting activities that target all age groups. The Pavilion had been built in the 1960s and its condition had deteriorated. It was failing to meet modern standards, gender segregation, numbers of changing rooms and Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

There are no other facilities of this type in the local area which is why officers have agreed that this application meets the requirements of the grant criteria.

7.3 Ashwell Village Museum

Members agreed to support an award of **£46,000** in principle (subject to their initial comments documented below for clarification of figures and shortfall) toward the capital expenditure.

The Museum was seeking this capital grant to payment towards a replacement roof (the total costs for this being c. £176,000), with Historic England providing in the region of 75% support.

At the time of the meeting the Capital Grants Panel asked for clarification on the figures as the representatives from the Museum informed the Capital Grants Panel that Historic England had agreed to provide funds in the form of a grant which would go towards the capital works and on going maintenance. The shortfall of funds required had changed from what was originally requested on their application.

They have since updated officers with current figures including the most recent quotes and clarified the shortfall amount required to undertake the capital renovation work is as outlined above.

The Museum is a well used community resource linking their various activities into local schools and many community groups in the area. The Museum holds 16,000 objects relating to the village and other surrounding villages, cared for by the curator and 70 volunteers.

Despite not being a village hall or community centre officers agreed that the building is sufficiently of benefit to the local community to make this grant compliant with the Capital Grants criteria.

7.4 Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club

Members were in support of making an award of **£50,000** subject to:

1. receiving revised figures; and
2. for the scheme to include the front car parks working in partnership with the Parish Council. Utilising S106 funds that have been identified for car park resurfacing in addition to a contribution from the Parish (of £5,000) in lieu of their 10% match funding.

The Sports and Recreation Club was seeking this capital grant for 100% of the repair of the roof, external wood cladding, playing pitches and car park.

The club premises is used as a focal point for the local community hired out for family occasions, it has a bar that is open evenings and it well used during the day offering a range of activities. It therefore can be considered a valuable community venue.

- 7.5 When any additional information as requested is received, Officers will distribute these electronically to the Capital Grant Panel Members. They will be given at least 5 working days to respond. If any Member has further issues, this will be resolved by Officers and if necessary, further information requested. The additional information will be sought from the organisation and distributed to the Capital Grant Panel again.

If Officers receive no response from Members it will be assumed that the information is sufficient and the funds will be released at Service Director's discretion in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.

Should the additional information not be received from an applicant within a period of 12 months from the date of decision then the application will need to come back to the next Panel meeting for consideration.

8. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Terms of Reference state that the Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel is to:-

- Act as an advisory panel to the Service Director: Legal and Community as the relevant delegated officer approving grants in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Engagement and Rural Affairs made under the Community Facilities Capital Grant Funding Scheme.
- To comment on grant applications in accordance with the criteria for the Community Facilities Grant Funding Scheme.

- 8.2 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything:-

- An individual may generally do
- Anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- For a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- Without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or person's resident or present in its area.

- 8.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.
- 8.4 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section 14.6.9(b)(iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 At the Full Council meeting held on 11 February 2016 a capital budget of £1M was approved, at £250,000 per year for four years, with an additional £120k allocated for year five 2020/21 for the 'Refurbishment and Improvement of Community Facilities'.
- 9.2 It was determined that such funding would help address the capital improvement needs of qualifying rural and urban community facilities in the District over that period.
- 9.3 Cabinet, at its meeting on 14th June 2016, approved the new Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme and in addition to the assigned budget, supplemented the scheme with the residue of £86,000 from the former Rural Community Halls Grant Scheme.
- 9.4 The funding scheme was formally launched in October 2016. There have now been four meetings of the Community Facilities Capital Grant Panel; in May 2017, January 2018, May 2018 and this current meeting taking place on 27th March 2019.
- 9.5 Re-profiled capital funding available for 2018/19 was £636k to potentially be awarded thorough to 31st March 2019. For any balance unspent at the end of the year, Cabinet can be asked to approve this being reprogrammed in to the following year of the Funding Programme.
- 9.6 The total funding seeking formal allocation via this Delegated Authority Decision is £196,000 (subject, where applicable, to the additional information being supplied and the Council being content that this is acceptable),

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Officers have identified the key risks relating to the scheme and have recorded these on the Council's risk register. These risks include the failure of applicants to obtain required joint funding for projects and failure of relevant facility management committees to manage approved works effectively. This could lead to funding not being released, funding not being used appropriately and subsequently, the standard of facilities failing to improve. The agreed qualifying criteria and implementation process, including the release of any approved funding, aim to manage and control the risks. In addition, officers will work closely with the facilities approved for funding from the project definition stage through project implementation to completion.

11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 11.2 All capital funded projects are required to demonstrate the proposed facility improvements will benefit all members of the community, where practical. The only

deviation is if a marginalised/minority group applies for funding to address a specific gap in service provision. This is demonstrated by the presentations of the applicants to the Capital Grants Panel and production of supporting documentation and liaison with officers.

12. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this decision.

13. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 Full Council 11th February 2016 re referral from Cabinet of 26th January 2016 – Capital Programme 2016/17 onwards.

14.2 Cabinet Report 14th June 2016 - Community Facilities Capital Projects Funding Scheme & Qualifying Criteria and Implementation Process.

14.3 The Terms of Reference for the Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel.

14.4 Minutes of the Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel held on 27th March 2019

15. NOTIFICATION DATE

15.1 12th April 2019

Signature of Executive Member Consulted



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Date10.4.19.....

Signature of Decision Taker  ...

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS