



**Report To:** Grants Advisory Committee and Finance  
Portfolio Holder  
**Lead Officer:** Director, Health and Environmental Services

21 June 2018

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## COMMUNITY ENERGY GRANT: FUNDING APPLICATIONS

### Purpose

1. To consider recent applications for funding from the Community Energy grant funding scheme during 2017/18 and 2018/19.
2. This is not a key decision, however, has been bought before the Grants Advisory Committee and Portfolio Holder following agreement of Terms of Reference for the Grants Advisory Committee at Council on 23 May 2018.

### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Grants Advisory Committee:
  - (a) considers all new applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and makes a recommendation regarding the level of funding (£0 - £3,000) to be awarded for each or defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.
4. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder:
  - (a) considers all new applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report, taking into account the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Committee, and makes a decision regarding the level of funding (£0 - £3,000) to be awarded for each or defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.

### Reasons for Recommendations

5. The Portfolio Holder has responsibility to approve policies and criteria for the approval of grant schemes under which no award exceeds level one (£5,000).
6. The Portfolio Holder makes all decisions regarding grant funding unless there is a conflict of interest. The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Portfolio Holder responsible for grants, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:
  - (a) Review of the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
  - (b) Design of any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
  - (c) Consideration of applications made under the Council's grants schemes.
7. The Community Energy Grant Scheme opened on 1 March 2018.

## **Background**

8. The Community Energy Grant is funding available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities, parish councils seeking to deliver local energy saving and green initiatives in South Cambridgeshire. Applicants may apply for up to £3,000 for projects. These must deliver one or more environmental benefit, for example, the installation of energy efficiency measures, reduced carbon emissions as a result of reduced energy consumption, or increased use of low carbon energy sources. E.g. :
  - Internal wall insulation
  - Loft/roof insulation
  - Electric vehicle charging points
  - Secondary glazing
  - Replacement windows/doors
  - Energy efficient lighting
  - Energy efficient boiler
  - Battery storage for solar panel or other low carbon energy generation measures
9. The guidance notes and eligibility criteria for 2018/19 can be found at Appendix B.
10. The amount of funding made available in the Community Energy Grant fund in 2018/19 is £55,000. The funding is allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

## **Considerations**

11. There are eight applications for funding to be considered at this meeting. The applications were received between 1 March 2018 and 31 May 2018.
12. The total funding requested equals £18,534.00. The amount of funding remaining for allocation is £55,000.00. A summary of the applications can be found at Appendix A (copies of the application forms are available from the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team upon request).
13. On 24 May the Leader and Finance Portfolio Holder decided to temporarily close the Community Chest and Community Energy Grants scheme to allow elected members to review the schemes' criteria. It was also agreed that applications received on or before 31 May 2018 would be considered using the schemes existing criteria.

## **Options**

14. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and recommend to
  - (a) award the amount of funding requested, or
  - (b) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding, or
  - (c) defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.
15. The Portfolio Holder may consider all applications for funding that are set out in Appendix A of this report and

- (d) award the amount of funding requested, or
- (e) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding, or
- (f) defer a decision if further information is required from grant applicants.

### **Implications**

- 16. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

### **Risk Management**

- 17. Applicants are required to provide supporting documents such as copies of their constitution and quotes where applicable. Applicants must agree to the grant conditions before funds are released.

### **Consultation responses**

- 18. Local members have been consulted on applications that directly affect their local area.

### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

- 19. The corporate aims are referenced in the criteria and guidance notes for the Community Energy Grant.

**Report Author:** Gemma Barron – Head of Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing  
Telephone: 01954 713340

Ryan Coetsee – Project Officer  
Telephone: 01954 713461