

SUBJECT:	<i>Community Projects Reserve</i>
RELEVANT MEMBER:	<i>Councillor Liz Walsh, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Cabinet on the recommendations of the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group following a review of the expenditure options for the new Community Projects Reserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. To note the recommendations from the Healthy Communities PAG following the review of the expenditure options for the new Community Projects Reserve.**
- 2. To bring forward expenditure of up to £250,000 from the Community Project Reserve for the following;**
 - To increase the community grant budget by £40,000 and to increase to £5,000 the maximum grant award available.**
 - To allocate £160,000 for a Large Projects Grant with a £40,000 maximum grant award available for individual schemes requesting funding.**
 - To allocate £50,000 for Social Prescribing to support the development of a database of local organisations that are able to work with the Social Prescribing referral mechanism to be established in partnership with BCC, the Chiltern CCG and Public Health.**
- 3. That the Head of Healthy Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities be authorised to finalise the procedure for the award of the Large Projects grants.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

Members agreed at the Council meeting on 26th February 2019 to establish a Community Projects Reserve for expenditure in 2019/20. This report provides options for members to consider when deciding on the allocation of expenditure.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1. Chiltern District Council has adopted the [Community Wellbeing Plan](#), an asset based approach to community development with a proven track record of improving both local services and community resilience. The Community and Wellbeing Plan annual review reported to the Services Overview Committee on 20th February 2019 details of how the Council in partnership with a range of agencies (Thames Valley Police, Chiltern CCG, Housing Associations, Bucks County Council, CAB &, Buckinghamshire County Sports Partnership) and local voluntary groups had supported local communities during 2017/18.
- 3.2. The projects captured in the [annual review](#) are important because they provide good evidence as to how work undertaken by the Healthy Communities Department strengthens the local community sector infrastructure. This approach supports the Council to achieve its key strategic objectives in relation to improving health and wellbeing, reducing health inequalities, helping enable a vibrant local economy, protecting the local environment and improving community safety.
- 3.3. The Community and Wellbeing plan is the Chiltern District Council method of delivering the Buckinghamshire Shared Model of Prevention and the Healthy Communities Partnership plan. The priorities being 1) to keep people healthier for longer and reduce the impact of long term conditions and 2) support communities to enable people to achieve their potential and ensure Buckinghamshire is a great place to live. The work programme for 2019/20 seeks to develop a plan to address social isolation, assist persons to change behaviour and develop actions to reduce childhood obesity, increase physical activity, and improve wellbeing.
- 3.4. With the government's continued austerity programme and potential changes to local investment priorities arising from the move to a unitary Council for Buckinghamshire the voluntary and community sector working in partnership with towns and parishes, GP services and the new unitary Council will need to increase resilience and continue to develop and deliver services that support local communities.
- 3.5. The Community Projects Fund is intended to deliver a wellbeing legacy to enable the Chiltern community to build on the successes already achieved.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. In developing the options, Members of the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group considered the options referred to below before making recommendations to Cabinet. Officers have also consulted with the Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health to align opportunities to build resilience in the local community.

5. Options

Recommended options from the Healthy Communities PAG

Social Prescribing

- 5.1. – is a way of linking people with sources of support within the community. It provides agencies with a non-medical referral option that can operate alongside existing GP treatments to improve health and wellbeing.
- 5.2. Social prescribing is a way for local agencies to refer people to a link worker. Link workers give people time, focusing on 'what matters to me' and taking a holistic approach to people's health and wellbeing.
- 5.3. They connect people to community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support. Link workers also support existing community groups to be accessible and sustainable, and help people to start new groups, working collaboratively with all local partners.
- 5.4. Social prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. Examples include volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and a range of sports.
- 5.5. When social prescribing works well, people can be easily referred to link workers from a wide range of local agencies, including local authorities, police, job centres, social care services, housing associations, GP's, pharmacies, hospital discharge teams, fire service and voluntary, community. Self-referral is also encouraged.
- 5.6. A standard model of social prescribing has been developed in partnership with stakeholders, which shows the key elements that need to be in place for effective social prescribing;



- 5.7. The recent Chiltern Youth Awards and the 2018 Chiltern Community Awards demonstrate the wealth of community involvement within Chiltern District and demonstrates the strong platform on which we can continue to build.
- 5.8. The current Live Well Stay Well (LWSW) initiative delivered by the Clinical Commissioning Group and partners is an example of a social prescribing initiative. Greenwich Leisure limited (GLL) are participants to the scheme through their HealthWise programme. Patients requiring support with cardiac rehabilitation, falls prevention and weight management are referred to GLL via the LWSW hub for a 12 week fitness course. Other providers of physical activity including simply walks are referred through this programme. During October to December 2018, 2042 referrals were signposted to physical activity services via the LWSW hub.
- 5.9. However, many of the districts community organisations and community activities such as U3A, are not yet connected in to the social prescribing network reducing the opportunity to maximise the benefits of connecting people, enabling increased activity, reducing social isolation and enabling the sharing of skills. There is a need to map, support and assist these organisations to become linked in to the social prescribing network enabling their activities to benefit those most in need. For example a recently widowed person being supported to join a club of their interest

enabling them to reduce the risk of social isolation and loneliness. Other examples could include Work aid supporting the retention of skills and enabling third world countries to benefit from refurbished tools.

- 5.10. The 10 year NHS plan seeks to build social prescribing capacity through the employment of link workers at GP surgeries. Similar to the Bucks Prevention Matters project these link workers will be required to identify and support patients into support mechanisms many of which will be delivered by growing capacity in the local community infrastructure. Linking existing and new community initiatives to the locality GP services will be key to ensuring the effectiveness of the network.
- 5.11. Strategically and locally the district council through the Community Wellbeing plan has invested resources in to growing community capacity, which may be at risk in future years. Investment in 2019/20 to support the development of social prescribing in the district and building local social prescriber networks would provide firm foundations that can be utilised in coming years.
- 5.12. The Healthy Community PAG recommended to support the local development of Social Prescribing in partnership with the community, Chiltern CCG, BCC Public Health. It is proposed that the authority invest £50k in 2019/20 to enable the social prescribing approach to be developed by undertaking the mapping and support required to develop a database linked to the evolving referral mechanism to be delivered through the NHS 10 year plan. This investment would require the employment of an officer for a maximum of 12 months.
- 5.13. Following the cessation of the 12 month project the aim is that the social prescribing project is embedded in the GP locality network and the continued development provided through the link workers employed by the GP's
- 5.14. The outcome is that CDC will have built a strong platform on which continued community delivery can proceed.

Increasing the 2019/20 Community Grant budget

- 5.15. This year's scheme attracted a record number of forty five applications that collectively requested funding totalling £67,738 against a budget of £32,240. The cumulative value if all the applicants' schemes were delivered totalled £250,098 which would be achieved by applicants accessing funding from other grant awarding bodies, running internal fundraising events and utilising their own internal reserves.
- 5.16. To provide a fair and consistent approach, all applications were assessed and evaluated resulting in the Council awarding £32,240 to thirty eight different community organisations with either 70% or 50% awards of funding against the amount requested. The grant maximum being £2,000 per application.

- 5.17. Community grants are a significant method of investing in the local community and voluntary sector (CVS) to deliver initiatives which build resilience, improve local services and support the council's objectives. The development of a strong and vibrant CVS has been a key asset of Chiltern District Council in helping to build a cohesive and vibrant community. Awards of funding have supported health and wellbeing initiatives, reduced health inequalities, supported a vibrant local economy, protected the local environment and improved community safety.
- 5.18. The Healthy Communities PAG recommended to increase the total Community Grant budget for 2019/20 by £40,000 to £70,000 and to raise the maximum award of funding to £5,000 enabling organisations meeting the Councils criteria to receive the funding requested.

Large Projects Grant

- 5.19. The Open Spaces and Playing Pitches Strategies have identified a number of opportunities to improve the public realm and improve play areas, playing pitches, walks, nature trails etc. The revitalisation groups and Towns and Parish Council, schools and community associations are instrumental in bringing forward projects that will improve facilities in their areas. Members of the Healthy Communities PAG recommended that the Communities Project Fund could support the delivery of several large projects and sought to allocate funding. If agreed a process would be required to be established to award the funding to schemes. It is recommended that the Head of Healthy Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities be authorised to agree the final procedure for the award of the Large Projects grants. The key requirements being;
- A maximum grant of £40,000
 - The scheme is open to Town and Parish Councils, Revitalisation Groups and Schools
 - The benefit of the project must be open to all residents
 - Projects must meet the aims of Chiltern District Council
 - Project may support social, economic and environmental initiatives
 - All funding awarded should be matched funded by resources allocated to the project.

Options not supported by the Healthy Communities PAG

Ward Based Grant

- 5.20. Chiltern District has previously enabled Councillors to directly fund community initiatives in their Ward. A proposal may be to award £1,000/member to enable activities to be supported without the need for an organisation to apply through the council's grants scheme. Funding directly could be awarded to youth clubs, sports clubs, arts, community associations, neighbourhood watch,

environmental groups, etc. without a formal application process. All funding would be allocated prior to January 2020 to enable schemes to be delivered in the 2019/20 financial year.

Working with the Revitalisation Groups and Visit Bucks to support the local visitor economy

- 5.21. The revitalisation groups are developing a visitor strategy to support local tourism and visits to their communities. This includes developing specific walks and activities that address the historical context of the area.
- 5.22. Examples being considered include; a Midsomer Murder trail building on the success of the Marlow project. Aiming to go live with this trail by 2020. Will take inspiration in terms of marketing/promotion from the Marlow and Hambleden valley trail leaflet. Midsomer Murders locations in the Misbourne Valley document: <http://midsomermurders.org/locationsindex.htm>. Based on the Thame/Marlow example, some of the benefits this trail could bring include:
- During peak times Thame has around 500 Midsomer tourists per week, with many local businesses producing Midsomer based products.
 - Across all Midsomer tourist areas, 60% of Midsomer visitors will stay the night.
 - UK visitors will spend around £100 per person per night and stay for 1-2 nights.
 - Overseas visitors will spend around £150 per person per night and stay for 2-4 nights.
 - A coach of UK day visitors will spend around £1600 per coach and Overseas around £2000 per coach.
 - Midsomer Murders is shown in 200 TV territories.
 - Just by having a Midsomer page on any tourism businesses website, they get thousands of views from around the world.
- 5.23. Other ideas include;
- Promoting the Chess Walk – ‘Chesham Walkers are Welcome’ Little Chalfont to Chesham 'Station to Station' is a 6 mile walk from Little Chalfont to Chesham. The route goes past Neptune Falls (the site of a medieval mill), the River Chess, the village of Latimer, the site of Canon's Mill, Chesham Moor and the restored Meades Water Gardens.
 - Developing historical and cultural trails (Churches, Milton Cottage, Quaker meeting house) with places of interest plaques
- 5.24. Allocating £30,000 to the Revitalisation Groups to bring forward opportunities to increase tourism and visitor days could assist the development of the visitor strategy.

Crowd Funding Initiative

- 5.25. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the internet. In recent years many local authorities have adopted this approach to help attract funding to support community projects. This involves community and voluntary groups identifying an idea and then promoting the funding opportunity to supporters. Projects to deliver children's activities, learning, environmental improvements, return to employment and homeless prevention are just a few of the examples.
- 5.26. Plymouth provided an initial £60,000 to a crowd funding pot to be used to provide support to community supported projects. That pot has seen a 650% return with over £450,000, allocated to 100 projects and has attract 4,550 project supporters
- 5.27. Cabinet agreed to support the development of a crowd funding initiative at its meeting 18th June 2018 in partnership with Heart of Bucks and South Bucks District Council. Initially the idea was to match fund with Heart of Bucks and the funding from the Chiltern and South Bucks lottery. With staff changes at the Heart of Bucks and limited funds available from the 'community pot' from the Chiltern and South Bucks lottery this project has not been able to develop.
- 5.28. With an allocation of funding from the Community Project Reserve to a solely Chiltern District Council crowd funding initiative such a project could be delivered within the 2019/20 financial year. It was recommended that £80,000 be allocated to a Chiltern District Council crowdfunding initiative

5.29. Other ideas

- 5.30. To develop a **2019/20 WWII grant** available to communities to commemorate the start of World War Two. It is envisaged that this could have a similar impact as the WWI initiative and enable community based activities or the restoration of memorials. The award of funding could be up to £1000 per parish.
- 5.31. To **transfer all the £250,000 to the Heart of Bucks** to enable a Chiltern District Community Trust to be developed allowing future applications for funds by communities in the Chiltern District current geographical administrative area.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Financial - Council on 26th February 2019 agreed to establish a Community Projects Reserve of £250,000 for expenditure in 2019/20.

6.2 Legal - Chiltern District Council has adopted the Community and Wellbeing Plan which promotes an asset based approach to community development enabling the allocation of resources to support community initiatives.

6.3 The Community and Wellbeing Plan supports the reduction of crime and disorder, improvement in environmental sustainability, partnership working and social inclusion and community resilience

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- Delivering cost- effective, customer- focused services
- Working towards safe and healthier local communities
- Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability.

9. Next Steps

To implement the matters detailed in this report.

Background	None, other than those referred to in this report.
Papers:	