

SUBJECT:	<i>Chiltern Large Project Fund 2019-2020</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Elizabeth Walsh – Cabinet Member for Community, Health & Housing</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To agree funding grant awards from the 2019/20 Large Project Fund grant scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet agree to allocate the Council's Large Project Fund as detailed in Appendix 2

3. Executive Summary

3.1 Chiltern District Council's Large Grant Project scheme was established this year to support voluntary groups and Town and Parish Councils and provide a lasting legacy for the residents of Chiltern. The key priority of the Large Project Fund scheme is to improve local community assets that contribute to supporting the Council's overall aims and objectives along with the aims of the Community and Wellbeing Plan detailed below:

- Aim 1 - Facilitating community participation, engagement and action, through established and new community networks, to develop sustainable communities.
- Aim 2 - Supporting services that improve opportunities for older people to live fuller, safer, more active and ultimately more fulfilling life-styles and become more integrated into local communities.
- Aim 3 - Improving the health and well-being of the population and reducing health inequalities.

- Aim 4 - Providing an environment for young people to enjoy, stay safe, be healthy, active, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.
- Aim 5 - Helping to stimulate and support a vibrant local economy whilst protecting the environment.
- Aim 6 - Encourage collective working to promote and support the rich and diverse wealth of cultural heritage in Chiltern

3.2 To further support the evaluation process feedback was also sought from councillors whose wards were directly affected by any proposed Large Project Fund Scheme project.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 The Large Project Scheme attracted funding requests totalling £858,435 (**Appendix 1**) from a total available grant pot allocation of £160,000. Therefore only projects that strongly supported the Council's key objectives and the aims of the Community and Wellbeing Plan were considered for funding.

4.2 Also, to maximise the benefits of the grant scheme other selection key criteria were also required:

- Projects being open access and available to all the community
- Projects including the provision or improvement of the built and/or natural public realm including for example play areas, external gym and fitness equipment, Multi Use Games Areas and improvement of parks and gardens and their accessibility and/or sense of place.
- Projects being supported by the community and link to identified needs such as those detailed in the Chiltern and South Bucks Open Space Strategy, the Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy and the Indoor Sport and Leisure Facility Strategy

4.3 Projects located in smaller parishes were given a higher weighting due to their rural locality having limited facilities. Finally the assessment process also required an even distribution of the Large Project Grant Scheme awards being shared fairly across the district.

5 Content of Report

5.1 The total grant fund available for Chiltern's Large Project Grant Scheme Fund is £160,000. The high volume and strong quality of applications resulted in the decision making process being very challenging.

- 5.2 The Large Project Fund attracted thirty four applications (Appendix 1) for an exciting range of projects including improving parks, community buildings, sports facilities and footpaths. The total amount of funding requested totalled £858,435.
- 5.3 The cumulative value if all the applicants' schemes were delivered totals £5,460,781 which would be acquired by applicants accessing funding from other grant awarding bodies, running internal fundraising events and utilising their own internal reserves.
- 5.4 To provide a fair and consistent approach, all applications were assessed and evaluated against the criteria detailed in section 4 of this report. Applying this assessment approach results in the Council awarding £169,0667, to eleven different community organisations. (Appendix 2)
- 5.5 All applications were arranged into distinct categories. Those attaining funding, strongly support the Council's key objectives and Community and Wellbeing Plan aims, have support from their local ward councillor(s), have successfully secured additional external funding and there project is accessible to all members of the community.
- 5.6 Applications grant awards were distributed evenly across Chiltern District (Appendix 3)
- 5.7 It is proposed that applicants with a parish population over 10,000 receive 50% of their requested grant. Applicants with a parish population of 5,000-10,000 receive up to 65% of their grant request. Applicants with a parish population of less than 5,000 receive 80% of their grant request. Those requesting £5,000 or less to receive 100% funding

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The community grant process involves on-going consultation with the local voluntary sector to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets community needs. Also the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group feedback is considered in the evaluation process with Members views from this committee feeding into the evaluation process.

7. Options

7.1 Not to accept the report's recommendations and propose alternative options of grant awards to community groups.

7.2 Endorse the report's recommendations in accordance to the evaluation process agreed by Cabinet.

8. Corporate Implications

8.1 Financial – There is sufficient funding available within the community grant, community safety and general community budgets to fund the recommendations detailed in this report. Additionally collectively the proposed range of applications lever in a significant amount of external funds into the local voluntary sector.

8.2 Environmental – A range of the community grant applications have a positive impact in helping protect the local environment.

8.3 Equalities - Support to the voluntary sector and helps assists the Council in targeting disadvantaged communities.

9. Links to Council Objectives

Work towards safer, healthier and cohesive local communities

Improve Community Safety

- Work with partners to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

Promote healthier communities

- Address the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable

Promote cohesive communities

- Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering

Strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

Recommendation

10.1 Subject to Cabinet approval allocate large project fund awards as detailed in Appendix 2.