

Eden District Council

Cabinet

15 November 2022

## Eden Play Area Improvement Fund Recommendations

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Communities
<b>Report from:</b>	Assistant Director Communities
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval of grant funding awards from the Eden Play Area Improvement Fund to the two projects set out in Appendix A.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval to increase the maximum award from £10,000 to £12,500 that broadly reflects inflationary increases since its inception in 2013/14.

### 2 Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Grants from the Eden Play Area Improvement Fund be agreed for two projects set out in Appendix A, to a total of £20,000.
- 2.2 The maximum grant that applicants can apply for be increased from £10,000 to £12,500 for future tranches.

### 3 Report Details

- 3.1 The Eden Play Area Improvement Fund was established in 2022/2023 to support and develop Play Area initiatives within the Council area.
- 3.2 A total of £100,000 was available for the Play Areas Improvement Fund at the start of the current financial year 2022/2023.
- 3.3 The Eden Play Area Improvement Fund Partnership Panel held a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on the 10 October 2022 to assess two applicants against set criteria. The Partnership was chaired by the Communities Portfolio Holder and consisted of representatives from Action with Communities in Cumbria, Penrith Action for Community Transition and individual community representatives.
- 3.4 Of the two applications considered, all of the applications were recommended for funding for the full requested amount.
- 3.5 All the recommended applications and their applicants have been checked to ensure they meet the criteria.
- 3.6 The Play Area Improvement Fund criteria are as below:
  - Delivers wide Community Benefit;

- Contributes to locally identified community needs and priorities;
- Demonstrates value for money;
- Has ability to measure success of a project or event; and
- Has ability to demonstrate equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination.

3.7 The panel unanimously supported the proposal of raising the maximum grant available to applicants from £10,000 to £12,500, in line with the Eden District Council Community Fund. The reasons for this are to correspond with the decision originally taken to have the maximum awards for the Eden District Council Community Fund and the Eden Play Area Improvement Funds to be equal and reflects the recent rise in costs for materials and services.

## **4 Policy Framework**

4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:

- Sustainable;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Connected; and
- Creative

4.2 This report meets the Connected and Creative corporate priorities.

## **5 Consultation**

5.1 The recommendations within this report reflect the recommendations of the Eden Play Area Improvement Fund Partnership Panel.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial and Resources**

6.1.1 Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the Council's stated priorities, as set out in its Council Plan 2019-2023 as agreed at Council on 7 November 2019.

6.1.2 The recommended grant funding awards are within the £100,000 Eden Play Area Improvement Fund budget allocation for 2022/2023.

### **6.2 Legal**

6.2.1 Applicants are required to sign a declaration before their application can be considered, in doing so they agree that:

- They have authority from their group to make the application;
- They understand and agree to the criteria;
- The information they provide is correct at the time of submission;
- They will submit a Project Completion Report along with the required documentation; and
- They have appropriate insurance cover.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

6.3.1 There are no human resource issues associated with this report.

## 6.4 Environmental

6.4.1 There are no significant implications on carbon emissions and ecosystems, with the grant funding applications.

## 6.5 Statutory Considerations

<b>Consideration:</b>	<b>Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:</b>
Equality and Diversity	Applicants are asked to provide details of arrangements for those with access or mobility difficulties to participate in projects, and to outline how they will actively involve all sections of the community, including those from different backgrounds. An Equal Opportunities policy is requested as part of required documentation.
Health, Social Environmental and Economic Impact	Community Fund grants have a direct benefit on the social, environmental and economic well-being of the organisations and communities who are awarded grants.
Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder issues associated with this report.
Children and Safeguarding	There are no children or safeguarding issues associated with this report.

## 6.6 Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls Required</b>
That there is insufficient monitoring of paid grants.	Grants are not used for their intended purposes.	Grants are managed in accordance with the agreed criteria of the grant. Two stage payment; 75% on Cabinet approval and, 25% on receipt of the project completion documentation.
Organisation dissolves following grant award.	Reputational harm to the Council.	Financial checks are undertaken in order to reduce this risk.
Organisations may disagree with decision.	Limited reputational risk to the Council.	Decisions are made in accordance with established criteria.

## **7 Other Options Considered**

- 7.1 Cabinet may approve or reject the recommendation for grant funding in accordance with the criteria set out at paragraph 3.6 above.

## **8 Reasons for the Decision/Recommendation**

- 8.1 Two applications are recommended for funding as outlined in Appendix A following consideration by the Eden Play Area Improvement Fund Partnership Panel.

### **Tracking Information**

<b>Governance Check</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>
<b>Chief Finance Officer (or Deputy)</b>	7 November 2022
<b>Monitoring Officer (or Deputy)</b>	2 November 2022
<b>Relevant Assistant Director</b>	20 October 2022

### **Background Papers:**

**Appendices:** Appendix A – Eden Play Area Improvement Fund Recommendations 2022/2023

**Contact Officer:** Doug Huggon, Communities and Wellbeing Manager

## Appendix A

### Recommendations following Eden Play Area Improvement Fund Partnership Panel Meeting: 10 October 2022

Total funds available for 2022/2023: £100,000.00

Remaining Balance for 2022/2023: £80,000.00

Ref	Applicant	Project/Event Description	Outcome (Approved, Declined or Deferred)	Requested	Total cost of project	Partnership Assessment	Recommended Award
EPAF 001	Crosby Ravensworth Parish Council	Play Area Improvements, including replacement of old equipment, improvements of surface, a new gate, rebuilding of a wall, update of drains and installation of flowerbed.	Approved	£10,000.00	£35,570.82	Full approval.	£10,000.00
EPAF 002	Alston Recreation Ground	Construction of a Pump Cycle Track.	Approved	£10,000.00	£50,667.00	Full approval.	£10,000.00

**Total Requested**

**£20,000.00**

**Total Awarded**

**£20,000.00**

**Remaining Balance**

**£80,000.00**