

Eden District Council

Cabinet

15 November 2022

Eden District Council Community Fund Recommendations

Portfolio:	Communities
Report from:	Assistant Director Communities
Wards:	All Wards
OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval of grant funding awards from the Council's Community Fund to the five 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 Council's Community Fund be agreed for five projects set out in Appendix A, to a total of £37,313.20.
- 2.2 The maximum grant that applicants can apply for to be increased from £10,000 to £12,500 for future tranches.

3 Report Details

- 3.1 The Eden District Council Community Fund was established in 2013/2014 to support and develop community initiatives within the Council area. The Community Fund combined three previous grant schemes, the Community Fund, Rural Infrastructure Fund and Village Hall Grant. The Rural Infrastructure Fund was discontinued after 2013/2014.
- 3.2 A total of £110,000 was available for the Community Fund at the start of the current financial year 2022/2023.
- 3.3 The Eden District Council Community Fund Partnership Panel held a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on the 10 October 2022 to assess five 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 five applications considered, all of the applications were recommended for funding for the full requested amount.
- 3.5 The five recommended applications and their applicants have been checked to ensure they meet the criteria.

3.6 The Community 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. The proposed increase reflects the inflationary increase since the schemes inception and general cost increases for materials and services. There has been no increase in the maximum grant available since 2013.

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 Community 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 £110,000 Community 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

Consideration:	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
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

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
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 Five applications are recommended for funding as outlined in Appendix A following considered by the Community Fund Partnership Panel.

Tracking Information

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

Background Papers:

Appendices: Appendix A – Eden District Council Community Fund Recommendations Second Tranche 2022/2023

Contact Officer: Doug Huggon, Communities and Wellbeing Manager

Appendix A

Eden Community Fund Recommendations following Eden Community Partnership Panel Meeting: 10 October 2022

Total funds available for 2022/2023: £110,000.00

Funds committed in First Tranche 2022/2023: £20,488.65

Remaining Balance for Third Tranche 2022/2023: £52,198.15

Ref	Applicant	Project/Event Description	Outcome (Approved, Declined or Deferred)	Requested	Total cost of project	Partnership Assessment	Recommended Award
ECF391	South Tynedale Railway Preservation	Restoration of steam locative barber. Funding required for parts, materials, the consultant engineer and the authorising body for sign off of boiler work.	Approved	£10,000.00	£16,206.40	Full approval, panel would like to point in the direction of Sustainability Team.	£10,000.00
ECF392	Skelton Toppin Memorial Hall	Create a net zero carbon building, whilst making a number of improvements to the building. Particularly to the buildings accessibility.	Approved	£10,000.00	£129,630.00	Full approval.	£10,000.00
ECF393	Castle Park Bowling Club	Renovation of bowling green.	Approved	£2,563.20	£3,213.20	Full approval; recommend they contact the Institute of Grounds Maintenance.	£2,563.20
ECF394	Bolton Memorial Hall	Construction of a car park adjacent to the hall.	Approved	£10,000.00	£73,998.00	Full approval.	£10,000.00
ECF395	Crosby Ravensworth Tree Group	New trees to replaced diseased trees, developing the local landscape.	Approved	£4,750.00	£6,242.90	Full approval, request information regarding previously planted trees.	£4,750.00

Total Requested

£37,313.20

Total Awarded

£37,313.20

Remaining Balance

£52,198.15

