

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Cabinet

Date: 7 September 2021

Subject: **Community Grants**

Portfolio Holder: Leisure
Councillor P R Thompson

Wards Affected: All Wards

1.0 Purpose and Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the current position regarding the Council's Community Grants programme and to seek approval for the future schemes from April 2022 to March 2023.
- 1.2 Currently the Council supports a range of voluntary and community organisations to deliver services that contribute to the Council's priorities. These are financed from three main funds as follows:
- 1.2.1 The 'Partnership Fund' assists: the Galtres Centre to provide a sport, recreation and arts facility in the south of the district; Citizens Advice Mid North Yorkshire to provide legal and financial advice to Hambleton residents; and North Yorkshire Sport to support sports development across the district (see Appendix 1).
- 1.2.2 The 'Hambleton Helps' grants provide a contribution towards the running costs of 14 social and community services who support members of the community across the district (see Appendix 1).
- 1.2.3 Since 2015 the 'Making a Difference' grants have provided one-off grants to voluntary and community organisations towards new projects that contribute to the Council's priorities.
- 1.3 In June 2018, as part of a community grants review, Cabinet gave approval to:
- 1.3.1 Fund the Partnership Fund for a further three years from the revenue budget, by way of Service Level Agreements (up to and including 2021/22).
- 1.3.2 Fund Hambleton Helps grants for a further three years from the Grants Reserve (up to an including 2021/22).
- 1.3.3 Fund an annual Making a Difference Grants programme from the One-Off Fund.

- 1.4 On 31 March 2022 the Partnership Fund Service Level Agreements will expire and the Grants Reserve that has been used to fund the Hambleton Helps grants will have been fully spent.
- 1.5 The budget allocation for the Making a Difference grants has been set annually and in December 2020 this increased from £125,000 to £250,000 (for 2021/22) in recognition of the increasing demand for and popularity of the scheme and the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial impact this has had on the voluntary and community sector. The Making a Difference fund is an exceptionally popular funding stream for communities across the district, the success of which is demonstrated by the substantial over-subscription experienced each year (last year the Council received £610,735 worth of bids from 71 applicants).
- 1.6 It is anticipated that, due to the on-going impact of Covid-19 upon communities and the wider economy, and the need for coordinated recovery, that demand for funding will continue to be high. On this basis it is proposed that a base fund of £250,000 is maintained for 2022/23 and established within the Council's budget setting process, with the potential that additional funding may be considered if demand justifies this. It is therefore proposed that the Making a Difference Fund for 2022/23 is launched in Autumn 2021. This earlier launch date will help the Council to measure demand in time for budget setting considerations later this financial year and provide advanced notice to help community groups prepare applications.

2.0 Supporting Town and Parish Councils and other Key Organisations

- 2.1 The Council Plan continues to deliver many schemes aimed at improving the economic and social well-being of the district. Support for and co-ordination with our various partners and stakeholders has rarely been more important as our market towns seek to recover from the Pandemic. The future success and sustainability of the projects within the Council Plan could also bring pressures on to parish and town councils and other organisations that support, for example, visitors to our towns. Whilst the Making a Difference scheme provides a valuable source of funding to many of these partners, it is proposed that the Council also provides a one-off grant fund of a total £150,000 based upon our priorities and objectives. This scheme would be aimed at supporting those partner organisations that face the challenge of providing or improving essential infrastructure, vital to helping our towns bounce back. Should the proposal be approved then the intention would be to develop the terms of the scheme and establish financial provision within the Council's budget to be able to implement a scheme from April 2022.

3.0 Link to Council Priorities

- 3.1 The criteria for all the Council's grants schemes stipulate that the grant must contribute to at least one of the Council's corporate priorities. This would also be applied to any new schemes.

4.0 Risk Assessment

4.1 The key risk in not approving the recommendations is shown below:-

Risk	Implication	Gross Prob	Gross Imp	Gross Total	Preventative action	Net Prob	Net Imp	Net Total
Voluntary and community sector struggle to finance their services	A reduction in services to people in need and/or potential viability issues for some organisations to finance their obligations	4	3	12	Continue funding the voluntary and community sector for a further year	1	1	2

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 Overall the revenue effects of funding the grants programmes will be as follows and are subject to approval through the Council's budget setting process:-

Revenue Effects	2022/23 £
Cost of:	
Partnership Grants programme	<u>65,390</u>
Hambleton Helps Grants programme	<u>48,700</u>
Making a Difference Grants programme	<u>250,000</u>
Community Fund	<u>150,000</u>
Financed by:	
Revenue budget	<u>114,090</u>
One-Fund	<u>400,000</u>
	<u>514,090</u>

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 All grant recipients must adhere to terms and conditions to ensure they comply with relevant legal requirements and the Council's terms and conditions associated with their grant.

7.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

7.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council:

- (1) continuation for a further year of the revenue funding to the existing Partnership Fund recipients (Galtres Centre, Citizens Advice North and Mid Yorkshire and North Yorkshire Sport);
- (2) an allocation of £48,700 within the financial strategy to fund the Hambleton Helps grants for a further year;
- (3) that the Making a Difference fund is launched and implemented as stated in paragraph 1.6 of the report, and
- (4) that a one-off Community Fund is established as identified within paragraph 2.1 of the report.

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Background papers:

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Partnership Fund and Hambleton Helps Grants (2021/22)

Partnership Fund

Organisation	Grant
Citizen's Advice Mid-North Yorkshire	£27,450
Galtres Centre (index linked)	£32,140
North Yorkshire Sport	£5,000
Total	£64,590

Hambleton Helps Grants

Organisation	Grant
Bedale Community Car Scheme	£2,800
Easingwold Community Care Association	£3,000
Easingwold Community Car Scheme	£2,800
Rural Transport and Access Partnership	£2,500
Wheels 2 Work (maintenance and mentoring)	£10,000
Hambleton Over Fifties Forum (Age UK)	£4,000
Hambleton Strollers	£5,000
Hambleton Community Action	£3,000
Northallerton Community Car Scheme	£2,800
Stokesley Community Car Scheme	£2,800
Stokesley Community Care Association	£3,000
Thirsk Community Car Scheme	£2,800
Thirsk Community Care Association	£3,000
Yorkshire Local Councils Association	£1,200
Total	£48,700