BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

NB Officers taking delegated decisions must ensure that they are fully conversant with the conditions applicable to the exercise of delegated powers by officers and in particular that the decisions are in accordance with the Council’s policies, powers and financial regulations.

Details of such conditions are to be found in the Council’s Constitution and in cases of any doubt advice must be sought from the Council’s Financial and/or Legal officers.

DELEGATED POWERS REFERENCE
Bassetlaw District Council – Part 4 of the Council Constitution – Responsibility for Functions – Officers – 11 DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
11.2 To discharge the functions of the Council in relation to ... litter and street cleaning
11.4 To discharge the functions of the Council in relation to parks and open spaces

IS THE DECISION CONFIDENTIAL? NO

OFFICERS ADVICE:

On the 19th of March 2019 BDC received notification from the Government of funding of £20,388 from MHCLG for the purposes of High Street Community Clean Up activities. The money has to be spent by the end of the financial year, monitoring of the projects must be completed by 31st May 2019, up to 10% of the grant can be used for evaluating and completing the monitoring, and the key to the spending was in the involvement of community groups in determining where the money is spent.

The Council can choose to spend the funding directly on goods and services at the request of community groups or pay the funding directly to community groups to use for funding events and projects.

The letter commented that;
'The Ministry will be disappointed if this grant is not put towards working with communities on making out high streets and town centres look their best.'

The outcomes for residents that are sought from the funding are;
- Increased pride in local high streets and where they live
- Increased community cohesion as people work together with their neighbours
- Enhanced social well-being as a result of increased volunteering
- Better partnerships between communities and their Local Authority on the cleanliness agenda for their high streets and town centres; and
- More volunteers from local communities helping to maintain the public realm ahead of other (government) initiatives to support High Streets including the Great British High Street Awards

It is clear that it is not the intention for LAs to retain the funds themselves to support such work, unless it is an expansion of already planned spring clean events, and those would need to be relative to the town areas.

BDC already have planned an extensive number of spring clean events taking place across the district over March and April. Some of these are in the main towns of Retford, Worksop
and Hanworth and Bircotes. With very little time or staff available to work on further events of this nature it has been decided that the most effective and impactful use of the funding to achieve the identified outcomes for residents and to enhance the high streets would be through existing community groups.

Retford Civic Society, utilising their own members and volunteers, the Business Forum, Community Park volunteers, the BID and a local company had a scheme already identified to and scoped that was waiting for a suitable funding opportunity and will revitalise the two main ‘gateways’ into the town centre areas thereby making the town a visually more attractive place to visit for residents and visitors. This will affect the high street positively. This sits alongside the regular litter picks that the various groups undertake and some further works that are about to take place in the town in partnership with BDC to improve litterbin provision in line with KBT guidance, which is already funded. The project will also involve materials to rejuvenate the existing heritage trail in the town. The amount being allocated to all the Retford projects is £12,880. This will cover 3 key areas where the ring road meets the town centre and the heritage trail.

Hanworth and Bircotes Town Council had identified a project of providing better and more litter bins within the town in line with KBT guidance. These would be branded to provide a sense of belonging and identification for the town. Alongside this would be a series of community events. Funding has been asked for to cover the costs of the new bins and the additional litter picking equipment. The amount being allocated to this project is £6048.

The Council is allowed to retain up to 10% for evaluation purposes. £1460 will be transferred to

On the 15th of March 2019 BDC received notification from the Government of funding of £18,256 from MHCLG for the purposes of Parks Improvement Funding. This does not need to be spent by the end of the financial year, but should be used quickly as a monitoring for will be provided in 3 months for completion. Funds should be allocated where there is immediate need and the guidance within the notification highlights ASB and safety as areas where spending should be targeted.

The consultation for the Canch Masterplan identified residents’ concerns regarding safety within the park, and the Canch in Worksop has already been prioritised within a Cabinet decision for improvement when funding is identified. This funding will therefore be used to improve security in the Canch in line with the already agreed Cabinet report of the 19th March 2019.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

a) **For Service Users**

Enhancements to the quality and cleanliness of town centres and high streets is both a local and national priority. Using this windfall grant funding in the manners identified will provide real and lasting benefits to the 3 main town areas within the District. As such residents should notice visible differences with a relatively short space of time.

b) **Strategic & Policy**

The identified routes of using the funding will fit within the corporate priorities of the Authority, and are in line with decisions already made in relation to improving the Town Centres and High Streets. It also fits within priorities identified for the Canch Park.
c) **Financial** plus Financial Reference – 19/95

The two grants received are:
MHCLG for the purposes of High Street Community Clean Up activities £20,388
MHCLG for the purposes of Parks Improvement Funding activities £18,256

Total Income £38,644

The spending will be allocated as below;
**High Street Community Clean Up Funding 2018/19**
- Retford Project (Civic Society leading) £12,880
- Harworth and Bircotes Project (Town Council leading) £6,048
- Retained amount for evaluation and monitoring £1,460 £20,388

**Parks Improvement Funding 2019/20**
The Canch, **Workshops**, improving security £18,256

Total Expenditure £38,644

d) **Legal** plus Legal Reference – 282/03/2019.

Bassetlaw District Councils Constitution at Part 4 (Responsibility for Functions – Officers) delegates at 11 to the Head of Neighbourhood Services discharge of the functions of the Council in relation to litter and street cleaning (11.2) and parks and open spaces (11.4).
e) **Human Resources**

There are no HR implications arising from this decision

f) **Community Safety, Equal Opportunity and Environmental**

There are no equality issues in relation to this decision. There are environmental and community safety benefits in sing the windfall funding for the purposes identified.

**OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

1. To engage in wider bid process for identifying projects, however the ‘rules’ around these two grants are clear as to purposes and timescales, and in relation to the High Street funding it must be used by year end, effectively providing only 8 days to develop and approve effective schemes.

2. To work with existing partners on previously identified schemes that were awaiting funding or to use in relation to already agreed priorities.

**DECISION (With Reasons):**

To use the funds within the timescales imposed by government already identified schemes and priorities have been utilised and the monies have been allocated as identified above at c).
BACKGROUND PAPERS:
MHCLG letter 14 March, Parks Improvement Funding
MHCLG letter 18 March, High St Community Clean Up Funding and monitoring form

SIGNATURE OF DECISION MAKER

DATE 28.3.2018

COPIES TO BE SENT TO:
Democratic Services Unit
Monitoring Officer
Section 151 Officer

Date received by Democratic Services Unit 4th June 2019
Decision Number 17