

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7	
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
Date	20 FEBRUARY 2012
Title	CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION IN RESPECT OF AGENDA ITEM 7 ON 26 JANUARY 2012 – COMMUNITY GRANTS

<p>1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY</p> <p>To discuss the call-in of the Cabinet decision from 26 January 2012 in respect of the paper concerning Community Grants.</p>
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<p>2. KEY ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet decision from 26 January 2012 in respect of the paper concerning Community Grants has been called-in by three members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. • The reason for the call-in was concerns that the new process will disenfranchise partner organisations in the process due to lack of representation namely the Police, Parish / Town Councils and the Youth District Council. • Details of the decision are contained in Appendix 1. • According to the constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel have three options available in how to proceed with this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accept the original decision ○ Refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration with comments ○ Refer the decision to Full Council

<p>3. RECOMMENDATION(S)</p> <p>To discuss and consider the background information in relation to the Cabinet decision on Community Grants from 26 January 2012. To decide what course of action the Overview and Scrutiny Panel wish to take in relation to the three options available to the panel as set out in the key issues section.</p>

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	N/A

Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Kit Owen, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Transport and March Affairs Councillor Chris Seaton, Portfolio Holder for Economy
Report Originator	Carol Pilson, Head of Policy and Communications
Contact Officer(s)	Carol Pilson, Head of Policy and Communications cpilson@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622360
Background Paper(s)	Community Grants Cabinet Paper 26/01/12

AGENDA ITEM NO.7	
CABINET	
Date	26 JANUARY 2012
Title	COMMUNITY GRANTS

2. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

To agree a process to award the Community Grants budget for 2012/13 to Community and Voluntary organisations following the Cabinet decision on 15 December 2011 to approve the Fenland District Council (FDC) revenue grant budget for 2012/13.

4. KEY ISSUES

- On December 15, Cabinet approved a budget of £45,000 revenue for Community Grants.
- The total scheme could additionally include £25,000 from Roddons Housing Association.
- FDC’s approach to community engagement has changed in 2011/12 as outlined by the Leaders letter to parish and town councils in May 2011.
- This has led to a different approach to Neighbourhood Forums (formally Boards) which is now administered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and supported by FDC, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and town and parish councils.
- In light of the above, it is proposed a joint FDC Cabinet and Roddons Housing Association panel is convened in order to determine the outcome of received applications for the Grant; recognizing that the FDC Cabinet includes portfolio representation for each town and rural areas.
- In doing so, the Grant allocation process would commence in February 2012 for an award to community and voluntary organisations in July 2012.

5. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Cabinet are requested to:

- Approve the proposed process to award the Community Grant allocation for 2012/13

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Chris Seaton, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, cseaton@fenland.gov.uk . Councillor Kit Owen, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Transport kowen@fenland.gov.uk
Report Originator	Sarah Gove Housing & Communities Manager sgove@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622372
Contact Officer(s)	Alan Pain Corporate Director alanpain@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622302 Sarah Gove Housing & Communities Manager sgove@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622372
Background Paper(s)	Cabinet report 15 December 2011 Community Support In Fenland minute C46/11

1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 15 December (minute (C46/11 refers) Cabinet approved the Community Grant allocation for 2012/13 of £45,000 from FDC (plus an allocation of £25,000 from Roddons Housing Association).
- 1.2 The report detailed that a further report on the method of allocation would be brought to Cabinet to consider.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 For the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 grant awards were recommended to FDC to approve via the Neighbourhood Forums (formally Boards).
- 2.2 Although Neighbourhood Forums still exist they have changed following the Leader's letter to town and parish councils sent in May 2011. This has led to a different approach to Neighbourhood Forums (formally Boards) which is now administered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and supported by FDC, CCC and town and parish councils.
- 2.3 In light of this and recognising that the timescale and values for the scheme has changed whilst the Council have considered its budget setting pressures, it would not be practical to replicate this arrangement.
- 2.4 A potential revised approach would be for Cabinet to form a panel along with a representative of Roddons Housing Association. Cabinet already have two members who also sit on the Roddons Board. As well as this, all the four market towns and rural areas have portfolio representation within Cabinet and would be represented through this approach.
- 2.5 It is suggested therefore that the following process is commenced:

Date	Activity
February 2012	Press release and marketing of Grant opportunity
February – April 2012	12 week application period
May – June 2012	Officer assessment
July 2012	Panel assessment and recommendations
July 2012	Cabinet approval

3. GRANT AWARD CRITERIA

- 3.1 With moving towards a single Cabinet & Roddons Board panel, it will not be necessary to separate out district wide and area specific bids as in the previous 2 years. However, given that the allocation is reduced from previous years, it would be prudent to have a maximum allocation of £5k to ensure that there is a spread of awards within the financial year.
- 3.2 As in previous years, the award criteria will be set against the key priorities of the Fenland Strategic Partnership (FSP), which are:
- Improve health outcomes
 - Improve life chances for young people
 - Improve economic prosperity
 - Reduce crime and disorder

4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The proposal outlines a way forward for assessment and recommendations of Community Grant applications for 2012/13, as follows:

- 4.1.1 A joint Cabinet/Roddons assessment panel (Cabinet and 1 additional Roddons Representative.)
- 4.1.2 All completed and valid bids seen by the Panel with Officer recommendation (comments against the FSP partnership priorities).
- 4.1.3 Indicative process timescales as follows:

Date	Activity
February 2012	Press release and marketing of Grant opportunity
February – April 2012	12 week application period
May – June 2012	Officer assessment
July 2012	Panel assessment and recommendations
July 2012	Cabinet approval

4. Organisations/groups invited to bid for a maximum of £5k.