

Forward Plan reference number: Not applicable

Report title: Local Community Fund: First round of funding proposals	
Report to: Councillor Louise McKinlay – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy	
Report author: Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance	
Date: 22 August 2023	For: Decision
Enquiries to: Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance; Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency, Emma Hunter, Democratic Services Officer – locality.fund@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: County Divisions affected: Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted and Thaxted.	

1. Everyone's Essex

- 1.1 The approval of these applications, received in response to the Councils' Local Community Fund (LCF), will directly support projects which are targeted at the following three areas:
 - Levelling Up
 - Tackling Climate Change
 - Youth Services
- 1.2 Levelling up and working with and empowering communities are key components of Everyone's Essex with specific commitments across all four of our strategic aims and as key operating principles for how we will work as an organisation.
- 1.3 This decision sets out the nominations received before the 21 August 2023 where we have received full information from nominated groups. Further decisions will be taken as more proposals are received. The final deadline for proposals is 2 February 2024.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Agree to make grants from the Local Community Fund (LCF) as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agree that no payments should be made with respect to a particular grant unless the recipient agrees to the terms and conditions of grant and provides sufficient evidence of the expenditure.

3. Background and Proposal

- 3.1 Following a decision made in May 2023 the Council established a £300,000 fund called the Local Community Fund. The Council has established criteria for making grants under this Fund.

3.2 The Local Community Fund operates as twelve separate funds each covering the area of a district council. The fund for each district will be £4,000 for each county councillor in that district. The fund must be spent on one of the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

3.3 The process for considering grant applications is that:

- Members representing electoral divisions in the relevant district consider how best to spend the money and submit an application to the fund.
- The proposal is considered by officers in the relevant service.
- The proposed recipients are asked to provide information about the project.
- The Cabinet Member decides on a grant nomination via this report.

3.4 Under this process we are now asking the Cabinet Member to consider the recommendations made by members and make a decision on the applications set out in the appendix to this report.

3.5 These proposals in this decision would see a total of **£2,000** being approved, meaning that a cumulative total of **£2,000** out of the **£300,000** fund committed to date, with the deadline for nominations being early February 2024.

4 Links to our Strategic Ambitions

4.1 This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision:

- Strengthen communities through participation
- Unite behind a sense of identity

4.2 This report links to the following strategic priorities of 'Everyone's Essex'

- Health, wellbeing and independence for all ages
- A good place for children and families to grow.

5 Options

Accept the recommendations from members grants as set out in appendix 1.

5.1 This option is recommended, because the grants have been nominated by members in line with the scheme. The Cabinet Member is required to be happy with the decision and is free to accept or reject any recommendation as they think fit.

Do not make some or all of the grants

- 5.2 The Council could decide not to make any grants in this round. This would have a negative impact on the projects and they are unlikely to go ahead.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 A cabinet member action was agreed in May 2023 to approve transfer of £200,000 from the Youth Services policy line to the Locality Fund policy line, both within Communities, Partnerships and Performance portfolio, for 2023/24 only. In addition, the cabinet member action agreed the draw down of £450,000 from the Ambition reserve. This funding is split into two parts: £350,000 is for the Locality Fund and £300,000 is for the Local Community Fund.
- 6.2 Members make recommendations for their district areas on how the money is to be spend on projects.
- 6.3 The fund opened for nominations on 15 May 2023 and proposals will not be accepted after 2 February 2024.
- 6.4 The value applications recommended for approval to date are as follows:

Local Community Fund	£300,000
Awards Recommended by District	
Uttlesford	£2,000
Total Awards Recommended	£2,000
Remaining balance yet to be awarded in 2023/24 financial year	£298,000

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 All nominations made by members have been checked against the criteria, before recommendations are brought to the Cabinet Member for approval and no payments will be made without sufficient evidence and information regarding expenditure.

8. Equality and Diversity Considerations

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful

- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

8.3 The Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment (ECIA) indicates that the proposal in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

9. List of Appendices

- 1.1. Appendix 1 - A summary of applications for approval.
- 1.2. Appendix 2 – ECIA

10. List of Background papers

10.1 [Local Community Funds and Locality Funds Arrangements 2023/24](#)

I make the following decision:	Date
LCF8 – Approve	27/09/2023
Councillor Louise McKinlay – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy	

In consultation with:

Role	Date
Michael Neumann on behalf of Nicole Wood, Executive Director, Corporate Services (S151 Officer)	07/09/2023
Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)	23/08/2023

Appendix 1 - Applications for approval.

Application	LCF8
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Date Nomination Received	13/07/2023
Member Agreement	All Uttlesford Members agree to this proposal, and the provision will cover multiple divisions in the Uttlesford area.
Amount	£2,000
Name/Group	Wholesome
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Uttlesford
Service Area	Levelling Up the Community
Purpose of funding	<p>The charity is going to be offering four family sessions over the summer holidays in conjunction with Uttlesford Foodbank. They will be targeted at families identified through the foodbank in the South of the district of Uttlesford, so from Thaxted to the Rodings.</p> <p>The Family Fun with Lunch will provide the opportunity (between 10.30 and 1.30pm) to come and meet together at the Dourdan Pavillion in Great Dunmow. There will be games both inside and outside and some outside providers will also visit the group. The families will be offered a nutritious lunch too and some food support for home.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity to learn about nature by seed planting and learn about insect habitat and protection.</p> <p>The costs covered will be: activities, games, face painting, crafts, pizza making, two course meal, bags of food and transport costs.</p>
Community Benefit	This will assist families who are going through hard times. Recycling will be part of the session as the charity is conscious of the need to promote this.

Appendix 2 – Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment