



Delegated Decisions Report

24 September 2019

GRANTS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	7.3
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

To determine the allocation of grants and funding of projects under the Supplementary Fund, which has been determined in consultation with Parish and Town Councils.

19 parish and town councils made 27 bids with a total supported funding request value of £138,982.

The recommendations for award of funds have been made following the guidance and criteria for the Supplementary Fund as outlined in Annex A. The total estimated value of the schemes recommended for the Supplementary Fund, excluding Parish Council contributions, is £61,950. Annex B contains the applications for Supplementary Fund and Annex C contains applications for Supplementary Fund that parish councils subsequently decided were not a priority

1 Decisions to be made

- 1.1 That the Supplementary Fund applications as detailed in Annex B to the value of £61,950 be awarded
- 1.2 That funding for the reserve Community Infrastructure Fund 19/20 scheme to address parking restrictions be awarded £10,000 from the Supplementary Fund.
- 1.3 Given this is a one year allocation, that the remaining unspent funds of £28,050 be allocated to cover any contingencies in the 2019/20 programme and any remaining funds be requested to supplement the 2020/21 Community Infrastructure Fund programme.

2 Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 The Cabinet member with responsibility for partnerships and Parish and Town Councils was successful in identifying an additional £100,000 to supplement the 2019/20 Community Infrastructure Fund. This enabled Parish and Town Councils to apply for grants that would have been considered within the previous Parish Grants Programme to provide a transition arrangement.
- 2.2 Historically, Parish and Town Councils were able to apply for grants under the Parish Grants Programme, which consisted of three separate funding schemes. The three schemes were the Parish Partnership Investment Fund, the Play Area Improvement Scheme and the Community Parking Partnership Scheme. These schemes were subject to a review and in July 2018 a decision was taken to close Parish Grants Programme and establish a Community Infrastructure Fund. The new model was adopted from April 2019.
- 2.3 The Supplementary Fund is a one year only fund to provide a transition arrangement between the previous three funding schemes and Community Infrastructure Fund 2019/20. It was agreed that working with the Parish and Town Councils (through their representative group, namely the Parish Advisory Group) that there would be a review of the assessment criteria to be implemented for year two of the Community Infrastructure Fund 20/21. The work on this is progressing.

3 Implications of the decision

- 3.1 The Supplementary Fund requests for 2019/20 is £61,950 and funding from Parish Councils £77,032 total £138,982. The main risk to any individual project is ensuring that the joint funding required is forthcoming. This is managed by not releasing the grant until either the Council have official confirmation from the Parish or Town Council that the project is completed or confirmation that the contribution will be paid to the Council, as set out in the offer letter. On the schemes where the asset is owned by the Council, the Council will complete the works as part of the revenue programme and the Parish or Town Council will be requested to transfer funding to the Council.

- 3.2 If the Council is requested to pay in advance, it requires a project plan with expected completion date within the 2019/20 financial year and confirmation of any third party funding. The Council will put in place a process of compliance with the fund criteria, including a project monitoring process.
- 3.3 During 2019/20 Parish and Town Councils will benefit from access to the Supplementary Fund, the Community Infrastructure Fund and the Road Safety Equipment budget.
- 3.4 Parish and Town Council applicants are given the opportunity to receive detailed feedback on their submissions.
- 3.5 The allocation of this fund is consistent with the adopted Parishes' Protocol 2013 and the Council Plan 2016-2022
- 3.6 The allocation of this fund supports the delivery of the Safer MK Plan (Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy), by improvements to local environments within the public realm.
- 3.7 The actual estimated value of the schemes recommended from the Supplementary Fund as shown in **Annex B**, excluding Parish Council contributions, is £61,950. This total available funding is £100,000. **Annex C** shows applications for Supplementary Fund that parish councils subsequently decided were not a priority.
- 3.8 The Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) was allocated under a delegated decision on 28 May 2019 however there was an insufficient funding for one scheme which remained as a reserve scheme. The scheme involved introducing parking restrictions in Stantonbury. As part of that decision, if any other schemes failed the reserve scheme could then be considered. It is therefore recommended that the present shortfall of £10,000 to fund the reserve CIF scheme be allocated from the Supplementary Fund to progress this scheme.
- 3.9 It is also recommended that the remaining unallocated funds from this budget to the value of £28,050 be used for contingencies and any remaining monies be allocated to 20/21 Community Infrastructure Fund.

Financial	Yes	Human rights, equalities, diversity	No
Legal	No	Policies or Council Plan	Yes
Communication	Yes	Procurement	No
Energy Efficiency	No	Workforce	No

a) Financial implications

The requests for funding are within the agreed budget allocated of £100,000 including the £10,000 reserve scheme from the CIF scheme. The unallocated balance is £28,050 which, at the point that the 19/20 accounts are closed, will be requested to be carried forward into 20/21 to assist in the delivery of the CIF programme.

b) Legal implications

The Council has general powers of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that an individual may do subject to any statutory restrictions. There is no specific legislation dealing with Supplementary Funds and therefore no relevant restrictions. The Council can therefore make a decision on the recommendations set out in section 1 of this report under the general powers of competence.

c) Other implications

None

4 Alternatives

4.1 A possible option was not to allocate funding this year. This would result in underspending the revenue allocations and damaging a long standing partnership arrangement with Parish and Town Councils.

4.2 It was also considered prudent to encourage application awards to more parishes by putting a ceiling on the amount which is available for each Parish and Town Council. This was agreed and has been applied to all applications received through the Supplementary Fund. This approach enabled access for grants to as many Parish and Town Councils as was possible within the funding limit

5 Timetable for implementation

October 2019 – Notify Parish and Town Councils of awards

October 2019 – March 2020 – Deliver projects

List of annexes

Annex A – Supplementary Fund Criteria and Guidance

Annex B – Supplementary Fund applications

Annex C – Supplementary Fund applications – non priority

List of background papers: Delegated Decision 28 May 2019 – Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) 2019/20