

Wards Affected:

All Wards

ITEM 1**DELEGATED DECISION****14 MARCH 2017****PARISH PARTNERSHIP FUNDS 2016/17**

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Gifford (Cabinet member for Place)

Report Sponsor: Tom Blackburne-Maze (Service Director (Public Realm Service))

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Executive Summary:

To determine the allocation of grants and funding of projects from the Parish Partnership Fund and Parish and Town Council Investment Scheme.

The Parish Partnership Fund is made up of three separate funding elements, these being: Parish Partnership capital programme allocation and reallocation of previously unspent Parish Partnership revenue allocations, together with the capital programme Parish & Town Council Investment Scheme.

The detailed criteria of the funds and the application summary are appended.

This year 10 parishes have made 13 bids for the Parish Partnership and Investment Funds with a total funding requested value of £67,724.57.

The recommendations for funds have been made taking into account MKC priorities and officer comments on the proposed schemes.

The total value of the schemes recommended from Parish Partnership Fund and Investment Scheme, including Parish Council contributions, and Wren grant funding, is £208,304.14

Background:

The Parish Partnership Fund has been provided each year by the Council to provide match funding towards Parish and Town Council initiated projects.

This decision constitutes a Key Decision.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Parish Play Area Investment Scheme and Parish Partnership Parish and Town Council Investment Scheme grants for 2016/17 be approved.
- 1.2 That the amendments to resource allocation and spend approvals for the Capital Programme be approved.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Officers in relevant service groups have been consulted to help shape the report recommendation.
- 2.2 If granted, the Parish and Town Councils are responsible for local consultation.

3. **Options**

- 3.1 The first alternative is not to allocate funding this year but this would mean under-spending the capital allocations and changing a long standing arrangement with parish and town councils.
- 3.2 The second alternative is to limit funding putting a ceiling on the amount which is available for each parish. This has already been done this year for applications.
- 3.3 The preferred option is to give parishes the funding as applied for, which meet the criteria within the available resources.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

None - the allocation of this scheme fund is consistent with the adopted Parishes' Protocol 2013 and the MKC Corporate Plan.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The Parish funds requested for 2016/17 is £167,724.57. 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 we have official confirmation from the Parish Council that the project is completed or confirmation that the contribution will be paid the Council.

If we are being requested to pay in advance we require a project plan with expected completion date and confirmation of any third party funding. We also ensure a very detailed process of compliance with the Fund Criteria, including a project monitoring process, and, the Fund is audited by Internal Audit team on a regular basis.

The remaining funding from any under-spends or any withdrawn projects remain in the programme and once there is a significant additional amount available, after consultation with the lead Cabinet Member, are offered for redistribution as per the Fund Criteria.

The reallocation of £4,314.57 of unspent prior year revenue Parish Partnership funding is required to contribute towards three projects which do not meet the criteria for use of capital funding.

Resource allocation within the capital programme currently only reflects the contribution from MKC. Amendments to the Capital Programme funded by Parish Contributions (£32,000) and grant funding from WREN (£65,000) are requested as detailed over the page:

Amendments to Resource Allocation and Spend Approval

Scheme	Resource Allocation £	Spend Approval £
Current Approvals		
Parish Partnership	37,000	0
Parish and Town Council Investment Scheme	40,000	0
Amendments to the Programme		
Parish Partnership	92,000	122,000
Parish and Town Council Investment Scheme	0	33,410
Revised Programme		
Parish Partnership	129,000	122,000
Parish and Town Council Investment Scheme	40,000	33,410

Y	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

None.

4.4 Legal

The Parish Partnership Fund uses the Authorities' powers mainly under the Local Government Act 1972.

4.5 Other Implications

The financial contribution of the Parish and Town Council is the only implication attached to this scheme.

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: None

Annex A: Play Area Investment Scheme and Parish Partnership Application summaries

Annex B Play Area Investment Scheme and Parish Partnership Investment Fund Criteria at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/councillors-and-committees/parish-and-town-councils/parish-grants>