

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND**

---

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 6 April 2017, the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee agreed to delegate to the Director of Development and Infrastructure to prioritise and allocate funding for Community Bid applications based on agreed criteria. The main purpose of this report is to provide an update on the applications to the Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund and how the Fund is being disbursed.
- 1.2 The report details the applications received and highlights that the Fund is oversubscribed.
- 1.3 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Note the contents of the report
  - Agree to disbursement of any left-over funds be allocated as set out in paragraph 4.11

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND

---

### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the Council Budget Meeting held on 23 February 2017 members approved an earmarked allocation of £200k in the financial year 2017/18. The funding is to support any reliability issues to assist with the three weekly bin collection programme and assisting with the transition and changes to ground maintenance (grass cutting services), with initiatives to tackle the problems with dog fouling, litter and marine litter, with an emphasis on sustainable community initiatives.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 6 April 2017, the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee agreed to delegate to the Director of Development and Infrastructure to prioritise and allocate funding for Community Bid applications based on agreed criteria.
- 2.2 This report provides information about the applications received for the Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund and details how the Fund is being disbursed.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Note the contents of the report
- 3.2 Agree to disbursement of any left-over funds be allocated as set out in paragraph 4.11

### 4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The agreed Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund of £50,000 was advertised through local media, council website and through email to community councils and other community groups in early May 2017 and reminder media releases were circulated in mid-June and July.
- 4.2 Managers in Roads and Amenity Services nominated officers for the judging panel to provide a mix of experience and knowledge to assess the applications.
- 4.3 Forty-eight applications were received by the closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> July and

these are being reviewed by the judging panel. The total funding request is £148,089 and the fund available is £50,000. A summary of applications is attached (appendix 1) showing the level of application in each of the 4 administrative areas.

- 4.4 Projects are wide-ranging from requests for £150 for litter picks up to £5,000 to upgrade facilities and improve surroundings. Community ideas include transforming wasteland into community gardens and growing areas, improving picnic areas, beach cleans and litter education.
- 4.5 The funding agreed by the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee in April 2017 is intended to assist with the transition and change to ground maintenance (grass cutting services) with initiatives to tackle the problems with dog fouling, litter and marine litter with an emphasis on sustainable community initiatives. Community Initiatives should be beneficial to the amenity and environment of Argyll and Bute.
- 4.6 All applications are being judged against the above criteria and scored against the following agreed criteria:

|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Sustainability                   | proposal must not require any additional funding from the Council and provide lasting environmental benefit to the community. | 1=partial compliance,<br>2=good evidence of compliance,<br>3=comprehensive evidence provided   |
| Match funding                    | promoting group to lever in match funding   | 1=up to 30% of application matched by additional funding,<br>2=up to 70% matched,<br>3=over 70-100% of application matched by additional funding |
| Community engagement             | eg demonstrate that a significant proportion of people in the community / local area have been involved in set-up or delivery | 1=partial compliance,<br>2=good evidence of compliance,<br>3=comprehensive evidence provided   |
| Providing environmental benefits | eg improved recycling, cleansing, gardens for communities   | 1=partial compliance,<br>2=good evidence of compliance,<br>3=comprehensive evidence provided   |
| Risk                             | applicant to provide assurance that the project can be delivered  | 1=partial compliance,<br>2=good evidence of compliance,<br>3=comprehensive evidence provided   |

- 4.7 The judging panel will be minded of this when scoring the applications and deciding about the allocation of grants and, in doing so, will consider whether a project is viable with reduced funding.
- 4.8 Some applications do not meet the criteria (eg the fund cannot support playpark equipment or building improvements). It is anticipated that not all applications will be supported, partly due to the availability of funds and partly due to their not fully meeting the criteria.
- 4.9 We will need to manage applicants' expectations and likely disappointment from unsuccessful applicants or those who are not awarded everything requested. We will do this by providing feedback, signposting alternative sources of funding and through liaison with Members. We will continue to work closely with Communications to highlight the successful projects while acknowledging that there are many positive actions being taken by communities to improve their local amenity and environment.
- 4.10 There are many worthwhile projects that the Fund cannot support because they do not meet the criteria to assist with the transition and change to ground maintenance and tackle litter. For example, feasibility studies, building repairs, community boat building, paths projects, support for small businesses, large-scale tree planting and projects which are not accessible by the wider public.
- 4.11 From the initial assessment of the applications it is not anticipated that we will be able to disburse the full fund (£50,000), due to insufficient applications fully meeting the criteria. Appendix 1B provides an indication of the level of funding (£35,721.72) that can be allocated following the initial assessment, based on the agreed criteria. This will be confirmed following full assessment being concluded. It is proposed that any unallocated funding be allocated for improvements to civic amenity sites and improvements to waste collections, ensuring equity for each area.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund has received 48 applications requesting almost three times the amount of funds available. However, not all applications meet the criteria.
- 5.2 Applications will be processed during August with a view to informing all applicants of the outcome in September. Members will be kept informed and an update report will be brought to EDI in December.
- 5.3 Publicity will be given to the successful projects in order to promote the many positive actions being taken by communities to improve their environment and the support that the council is providing.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy: none
- 6.2 Financial: budget provision allocated through the 2017 budget
- 6.3 Legal: none
- 6.4 HR: none
- 6.5 Equalities: none
- 6.6 Risk: none
- 6.7 Customer Service: none

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure** Pippa Milne  
**Head of Roads and Amenity Services** Jim Smith  
**Policy Lead: Councillor** Roddy McCuish  
4 August 2017

**For further information contact:** Jennifer Swanson, Project Manager  
Transformation, 01546 604298

#### **APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1a: Summary of applications by area
- Appendix 1b: Summary of applications that meet criteria, by area

**APPENDIX 1a: SUMMARY OF ALL APPLICATIONS BY AREA**

| <b>Area</b>            | <b>Total no of applications</b> | <b>Total requested</b> | <b>Total project value</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bute and Cowal         | 18                              | £56,497                | £198,242                   |
| Helensburgh and Lomond | 13                              | £42,146                | £97,897                    |
| Mid-Argyll and Islands | 11                              | £38,321                | £179,648                   |
| Oban, Lorn and Isles   | 6                               | £11,125                | £28,200                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>48</b>                       | <b>£148,089.00</b>     | <b>£503,987.00</b>         |

**APPENDIX 1b: SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS THAT MEET CRITERIA**

| <b>Area</b>            | <b>Total no of eligible applications</b> | <b>Total amount requested</b> | <b>Total project value</b> | <b>Total grant offer</b> |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bute and Cowal         | 7  | £21,162.92                    | £62,452.75                 | £14,162.92               |
| Helensburgh and Lomond | 6  | £13,695.00                    | £21,230.00                 | £10,595.00               |
| Mid-Argyll and Islands | 5  | £14,588.80                    | £73,465.69                 | £10,313.80               |
| Oban, Lorn and Isles   | 2  | £650.00                       | £5,250                     | £650.00                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>20</b>                                | <b>£50,096.72</b>             | <b>£162,398.44</b>         | <b>£35,721.72</b>        |