

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY WELLBEING
CABINET MEMBER**

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES FUND

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 The council has increased the level of funding available for community projects

1.2 The key points of the report are as follows.

1.2.1 The council has created the Prosperous Communities Fund to help improve the quality of community facilities and help deliver priorities for the area.

1.2.2 We need to approve criteria to guide the allocation of the new fund.

1.2.3 We have received two applications for grant aid. These need considering against the scheme criteria and available funds.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The council recognises the important role that community groups' play in making North Lincolnshire an excellent place to work, live and play. The council has created a Prosperous Communities fund. The fund will support the delivery of capital infrastructure projects which improve existing or contribute towards new community facilities.

2.2 Criteria have been developed to guide applicants and assess applications. The new criteria are set out in Appendix 1.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The options available to the Cabinet Member are as follows.

- Approve the criteria as set out in Appendix 1, or
- Amend the criteria as set out in Appendix 1
- Reject the criteria set out in Appendix 1.
- Approve the applications as set out in Appendix 2.
- Refuse support; or
- Offer grant support at a reduced level.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The criteria were developed to make clear the council's expectation that communities who receive funding will contribute to delivering priorities for the area. Rejecting/amending the criteria will delay rolling out the new programme pending the development of an alternative set of criteria.
- 4.2 Officers recommend to adopt the criteria for funding as set out at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The applications received meet the criteria for grant funding up to the levels shown in Appendix 2.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 The council has approved a capital budget of £1,350,000 for a Prosperous Communities Fund in 2017/18. The total amount required to support the applications covered by this report to the levels requested is £180,000.

5.2 There are no other resource implications to consider.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 Funding community projects can often be difficult for community groups. Community organisations have told us that they need the Council's support to help improve community facilities. The increased funding offers the opportunity for more communities to deliver improved facilities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the criteria for the Prosperous Communities Fund set out in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member approves the recommended level of community grant support set out in the table at Appendix 2.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - COMMERCIAL

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Community Grant Aid – Application packs

PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES FUND

Criteria and guidance



North Lincolnshire Council recognises the role and importance of local groups and organisations in delivering on priorities in local communities, which in turn help to make North Lincolnshire an excellent place to live, work and play.

The Council has created the Prosperous Communities Fund with a view to encouraging and supporting communities who wish to strengthen their local community through the provision of facilities, for local people.

Who can apply for the fund?

The council will work with partners to identify and prioritise schemes which will improve existing or deliver new community facilities. The fund will support the following organisations if they are non-profit making and have social aims:

- Junior and Youth Groups (registered with North Lincolnshire Council)
- Charitable bodies
- Trusts
- Co-operatives
- Industrial and provident societies
- Not for profit constituted organisations
- Town and parish councils

What kind of activity will be supported?

We are looking for applications which:

- Are rooted in the community, are genuinely community-led and give the community a stake in local decision-making
- Are connected to other organisations and services in the community
- Show clearly the changes that will take place and why this is the best way to deliver these changes
- Show the developments will be sustainable.
- Will help deliver Council priorities: Details of the current council priorities can be found at northlincs.gov.uk

Examples of Capital Projects that may receive support include:

- Playing fields/sports, arts & heritage facilities
- Children's playgrounds
- Community buildings
- Major equipment

How much will we fund?

- Although we encourage match-funding in applications, we can fund up to 100 per cent of project costs. Awards will not exceed £150,000 for any one project (unless under a specific and identified exception).
- Applicants will be encouraged to contribute their own funds to the project and use the offer of council funding to draw down other grants and funds to enhance the project.
- Full business case needs to be submitted demonstrating need and strategic links to the Authority's outcomes.
- Grant aid will be based on the estimated net cost of the work involved. Any VAT payments will only be covered by grant aid if they are non-reclaimable.
- For contributions to new buildings, applicants need to demonstrate that they have exhausted potential sharing of/re-use of existing premises.
- Applicants need to demonstrate that they have explored alternative funding routes such as sporting bodies, community organisations and/or raising precepts.

Important things to note

1. Each application will be considered on its own merits.

Consideration will include

- a) The benefits that will accrue to the children, young people, families, adults or community to which the application applies
- b) The project must be located in the North Lincolnshire Council boundary and the benefit residents of the area.
- c) The project must contribute to the Council's priorities.
- d) The purpose for which the financial assistance is being requested
- e) Whether the objectives can be achieved more effectively
- f) Evidence of the applying body's efforts to provide value for money with the proposed scheme and/or raise additional funding themselves

Prosperous Communities – July 2017

Application for Community Grant – Prosperous Communities Programme

Group	Scheme	Total cost	Amount requested	Added Value: other funds	Officer Comments	Contribution to council priorities & Community Support	Contribution to statutory duties	Geographical
Owston Ferry Parish Council	Children's Play Areas	£150,000	£150,000	Beneficiaries: all residents and visitors	Application is to cover the cost of the installation of new children play equipment in Owston Ferry and Gunthorpe play areas £150,000 grant recommended	Enable communities to thrive and live active and healthy lives Support safeguard and protect the vulnerable Shape the area into a prosperous place to live, work, invest and play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create attractive and healthy places to live, work and play 	N/a	Axholme South
St Nicholas Church Hall, Ulceby	Toilet facility upgrade	£38,000	£30,000	Group have allocated £8,000 to this project with £67,000 in reserve for ongoing building maintenance. Beneficiaries: approx. 2,000	Application is for support with the cost of upgrading toilet facilities within the church. Group have worked closely with National Churches Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund to make the church into a useful community space but need further assistance to provide suitable toilet facilities. £30,000 grant recommended.	Enable communities to thrive and live active and healthy lives Support safeguard and protect the vulnerable Shape the area into a prosperous place to live, work, invest and play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create attractive and healthy places to live, work and play 	N/a	Ferry