

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ADULTS, HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY WELLBEING
CABINET MEMBER**

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND – WINTER IN BLOOM 2018

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider whether to extend the initial North Lincolnshire in Bloom scheme to offer grant aid to community groups, town and parish councils to support winter planting.
- 1.2 The key points of the report are the criteria for such a scheme for expenditure and sustainability of the North Lincolnshire in Bloom scheme.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council invited community groups, town and parish councils to participate in the 'North Lincolnshire in Bloom' 2017 initiative. The scheme was to engage communities in the creation of summer displays that would visually enhance the local area for both residents and visitors. In doing so, the scheme would promote volunteering and provide opportunities for communities to participate in competitions such as the 'CPRE Best Kept Village'.
- 2.2 The Community Grant Fund offered grant aid towards the initial cost of providing attractive planters, flowers and shrubs. The capital element of the grants fund funded the scheme in line with the council's Capitalisation Policy, as the planters would create something of benefit that would last for more than one year.
- 2.3 Financial upkeep and on-going maintenance was to be through town and parish councils working with local businesses and volunteers from within the local community.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The proposal is to allocate a maximum of £30,000 of Community Grants funding to the scheme with funding from revenue or capital as determined by the support requested.
- 3.2 The options available to the Cabinet Member are as follows:
- To approve the scheme as proposed;

- Offer a different level of grant; or
- Not offer financial support for the proposal

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Funding of winter planting from the revenue grant would, depending on the financial value of support offered, reduce or prohibit consideration of further applications to the fund for the remainder of the financial year the summer scheme cost the council £50k.
- 4.2 'North Lincolnshire in Bloom' offered financial support towards the initial cost of providing the planters and flowers. The intention was that town and parish councils would act as the financial lead to engage local businesses and volunteers to make the scheme sustainable. capping the amount for winter bloom will enable the cabinet member to keep the grant scheme open for longer.
- 4.3 To offer grant aid will support community groups and town and parish councils to meet the cost of the winter planting schemes.
- 4.4 To not offer grant aid or support at a reduced level would mean that winter planting might not progress as proposed.

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

5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 North Lincolnshire in Bloom has taken £50K from the community grants to date.
- 5.1.2 Revenue commitments to date are £23,841 with applications for £17,725 under consideration. Balance of revenue grant remaining is £30,434.
- 5.1.3 The council will allocate a maximum of £30,000 of Community Grant funding to support the winter planting. Eligible expenditure will be capitalised as appropriate in line with the council's Capitalisation Policy.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Enabling individuals and communities across North Lincolnshire to become involved in community projects is an excellent way to encourage participation from a wide and diverse range of social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to promote wellbeing.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 Bringing people together to participate in community events promotes wellbeing and contributes to building stronger, more resilient communities.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member considers the information regarding the eligibility for funding and sustainability of the North Lincolnshire in Bloom scheme.
- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member approves the scheme as proposed.

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Date: 01 October 2018