

Report to: **Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

Date: **1 April 2021**

Title: **Sustainable Community Locality Fund – Update**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Judy Pearce
Leader of the Council**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y / N**

Date next steps can be taken: N/A

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Recommendations:

That Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the update on the Council's Sustainable Community Locality Fund.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Sustainable Community Locality Fund provides each District Councillor with a budget to enable them to support a wide range of projects.
- 1.2 Each District Council has an annual Locality Fund of £2,000 to support not for profit groups or organisations to deliver community projects that benefit their ward or the wider local area.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the use of the fund during the 2020/21 Financial Year.

2. Background

- 2.1 South Hams District Council implemented the Sustainable Community Locality Fund in 2009 as a light touch grant scheme enabling each District Councillor to award up to £1,000 to support community projects and strengthen their community leadership roles.
- 2.2 The fund was so successful that in 2015/16, the grant allowance per District Councillor was increased to £2,000 and has remained at that level each year since.

- 2.3 In 2019/20 (the first year of this Council term), a total of £41,448 was contributed from the grant fund to community schemes in South Hams. The overall costs of the projects supported was in excess of £635k.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 There is a lower grant limit of £100 per project. Applications for larger projects requesting grants of over £2,000 can be supported by Ward Councillors wishing to combine their resources. Any unspent allocations are carried forward annually until the end of the current Council term.
- 3.2 In applying for funding, applicants are requested to demonstrate that the project:-
- a. demonstrates clear local support and / or need;
 - b. links with their existing local town, village, parish community plan or emerging neighbourhood plan (if applicable);
 - c. involves and engages with local residents and voluntary / community groups;
 - d. tackles real local issues and supports hard to reach groups (young people, older people, unemployed people, ethnic minorities, etc).

Projects Supported through the Sustainable Locality Community Fund during 2020/2021

- 3.3 Focusing on the 2020/21 financial year, the Sustainable Community Locality Fund has contributed £43,800 to 78 projects with a total cost of £379,000. Note that where more than one Member has contributed to the project, we have only included the total project cost once so as not to duplicate.
- 3.4 The detail of schemes supported in the 2020/21 financial year is set out in Appendix A to this report. It should be noted that at the time of publishing this report, there is still a week of the financial year left and therefore the position may change.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 This report provides an update of the community projects and schemes supported through the Sustainable Community Locality Fund throughout 2020/21. It is therefore suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the schemes supported to date and the following planned actions for the coming months:
- a. That the Council Grant Funding web pages be updated to include examples of projects supported to date
 - b. That we remove reference to projects having to align to our corporate strategy themes within the online guidance. This over complicates the process as the guidance already states that funding applications should align with existing local town, village and parish plans.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	N	Section 236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 authorises arrangements for the exercise of the Council's functions by ward councillors including providing them with a budget to spend on projects in their local communities.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	This report does not recommend any changes to the current approach. Each Councillor has an allocation of £2,000 per annum to support community schemes. Any unspent funding carries forward until the end of the Councillors current term in office.
Risk	N	This is an update report and therefore there are no risks identified.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	N	All
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	Councillors can support a range of schemes including climate related schemes.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	Applications are only considered where there are no negative Equality and Diversity implications.
Safeguarding	N	None
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	None
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	None
Other implications	N	None

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – 2020/21 SCLF Funding Awarded by Councillor

Background Papers:

None