

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

REPORT NO 367/24

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB COMMITTEE - 28 NOVEMBER 2024

COMMUNITY ASSET CAPITAL GRANT FUND

REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

1. ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the proposed projects recommended by officers in Appendix 1 for the distribution of the Community Asset Capital Grant Fund.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

- 2.1 Delivery of projects and initiatives from this fund will contribute to the following priorities in the Angus Council Plan 2023-2028 (2024 update).

Caring for our Place

- Engage with communities to support their ambitions to deliver on local aspirations (e.g., community asset transfer requests, community gardens, food hubs).
- Maximise funding opportunities and grant to the Third Sector and communities to support their ambitions to deliver services.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:-

- (i) agrees the proposed projects recommended by officers in Appendix 1 for distribution of the Community Asset Capital Grant Fund; and
- (ii) delegates authority to the Director of Finance to approve any necessary changes to projects or emergency awards for funding from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the remainder of the fund should monies become available due to approved projects not proceeding or due to project underspends or decommitments.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 3 September 2024 ([Report 249/24](#)) the committee agreed to allocate £600,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Communities and Place Priority to a Community Asset Capital Grant Fund to support community led projects, including ownership and/or redevelopment of assets and noted that a further report would be brought back to the Policy and Resources committee for approval of, the process and criteria of the fund.

The Communities and Place Priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund sets out the following objectives and funding priorities in the 3 interventions as outlined below:

Objectives of the Communities and Place Priority

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

- Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Interventions

- S1: Place based investments for regeneration and town centre improvements, which could include better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.
- S3: Improvements to the natural environment and green and open space which could include community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- S4: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment

- 4.2 At a meeting of the Policy and Resource Committee on 29 October 2024 ([Report 316/24](#)) the committee agreed that due to the deadline for spending the fund (31 March 2025) officers would assess potential projects and bring a shortlist of projects to the Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee to decide on the final list of grant awards and recipients. The following approach and scoring criteria for the Community Capital Asset Grant fund was also agreed:

Criteria	Maximum Score
Impact	10
Deliverability within the timescales set	30
Sustainability	10
Leverage	5
Carbon Reduction	5
Total	60

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Following the approvals at the Policy and Resources Committee on 29 October 2024, officers have contacted all organisations that submitted an expression of interest in May 2024 for the Place Based Investment Fund and have reviewed all projects in line with the UKSPF objectives and interventions outlined in 4.1.
- 5.2 Twenty-three groups were contacted for further information, a mix of projects that had completed a full Expression of Interest for the Place Based Investment Fund and other projects that Community Development Officers were working with to develop capital projects. A number of projects contacted cannot deliver in the timescale of the fund or are seeking revenue costs as opposed to capital costs, and some projects require further permissions and therefore are not ready to proceed. Some projects are suitable for other funding streams. These projects are presented in Appendix 2. Officers assessed and scored the applications based on the set criteria noted at 4.2. The total value of funding requested was £1,302,588 and the available funding totals £600,000. The shortlist of projects recommended for approval is attached in Appendix 1.
- 5.3 Vibrant Communities staff will work with any applicants who are unsuccessful in the Community Asset Capital Grant Fund and assist them in further developing their projects and sourcing external funding. Staff will also support successful applicants to ensure the projects are delivered within the required timescale.
- 5.4 It is also recommended that members delegate authority to the Director of Finance, to approve any necessary emergency changes or projects should monies become available due to approved projects being unable to proceed or due to project underspends or decommitments. This will also ensure we can maximise the funding spend by 31 March 2025.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council as UKSPF funding is committed and ringfenced for the delivery of projects but if successful projects, for whatever reason, are not completed by the 31 March 2025 deadline for spending the UKSPF funding and if any underspends are not re-allocated to other projects, any remaining funding would have to be returned to UK Government.

6.2 There are however indirect resource implications to undertake the required administration, reporting and delivery of the funding as well as support for the delivery of projects.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Where the Council is providing grant funding or facilitating provision by partners, there is a risk of a lag or change in actual expenditure that matches the funding profile. The Council does not have full control on delivery in these circumstances which can lead to slippage in spending timelines.

7.2 The current position from the UK Government remains that Year 3 of the programme will come to a close on 31 March 2025. The final year of the programme must be carefully planned, managed, and closely monitored to ensure all project activity and spend is completed by the end of the programme. Deliverability has formed the highest weighting element of the assessment criteria.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

10. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been carried out within the EIA.

11. CONSULTATION

11.1 The Director of Finance and the Director of legal, Governance and Change have been consulted on the contents of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are: (list them below)

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Table of shortlisted projects for approval (EXEMPT)
Appendix 2: Additional projects considered (EXEMPT)
Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment (EXEMPT) - To Follow