

# Economic Success Panel

## Agenda

### Date

Monday 12 October 2020

### Time

6pm

### Place

To be hosted remotely at  
Thorpe Lodge  
1 Yarmouth Road  
Thorpe St Andrew  
Norwich

### Contact

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**If any Member wishes to clarify details relating to any matter on the agenda they are requested to contact the relevant Director / Assistant Director.**

## Public Attendance

This meeting will be live streamed for public viewing via the following link:

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Note: at the conclusion of the formal meeting, an informal briefing session will take place for Members on the Food Innovation Centre.

Trevor Holden  
Managing Director

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

Does the interest directly:

1. Affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position?
2. Relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner?
3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council
4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own
5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?

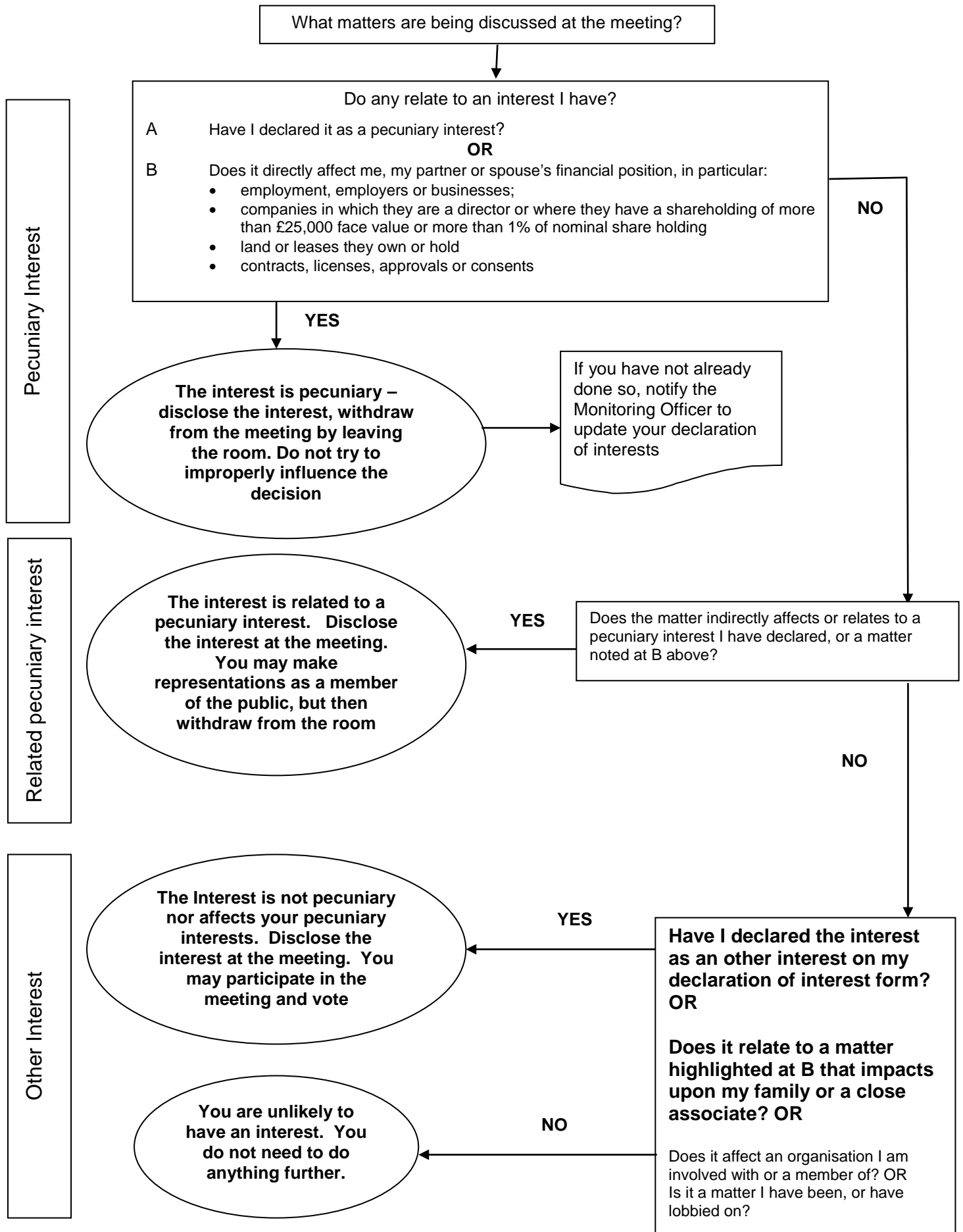
If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be another interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.

Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

**FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF  
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER  
IN THE FIRST INSTANCE**

# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Minutes of a meeting of the **Economic Success Panel** held by video link on **Wednesday 22 July 2020** at 6pm when there were present:

Cllr J Copplestone – Chairman

Cllr S Beadle

Cllr A Crotch

Cllr N Harpley

Cllr P Bulman

Cllr S Catchpole

Cllr K Vincent

Cllr K Leggett and Cllr G Nurden were also in attendance.

Also in attendance were the Director of Place, the Acting Assistant Director Economic Growth, the Business Support and Promotion Team Manager, the Tourism Officer (CG), the Democratic Services Manager, the Democratic Services Officer (LA) and the Programme Director for Better Broadband for Norfolk (Karen O’Kane).

## **20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Declaration</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Cllr S Beadle	6 - Economic Recovery in Broadland	Director of a Company in receipt of a Business Support Grant.	Other
Cllr J Copplestone	6 - Economic Recovery in Broadland	In receipt of a Business Support Grant under the Tourism sector.	Other
Cllr K Vincent	All	Norfolk County Councillor	Other

## **21 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mancini-Boyle.

## **22 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **23 MATTERS ARISING**

*Minute No: 17 Matters Arising*

The Chairman referred to minute 17 from the last meeting, which had recommended to Cabinet that the Council’s hardship fund be used to assist residents in rural properties to access full fibre broadband. The meeting was advised that, following a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet had proposed that Council consider whether Broadland District Council should make a bid to the CIL Infrastructure Fund to further

invest in Broadband. However officers had since confirmed that the use of CIL funds for this purpose was not appropriate.

### **24 BETTER BROADBAND FOR NORFOLK- UPDATE BY KAREN O’KANE, PROGRAMME DIRECTOR**

The Chairman welcomed members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the meeting for this item.

The Programme Director for Better Broadband in Norfolk, provided members with a verbal update on the ‘Better Broadband for Norfolk’ scheme. She advised that, to date, two rollouts of the scheme had been completed with the most recent one exceeding the levels of coverage expected by the contract. The Panel was informed that the contract dealt specifically with properties eligible for state intervention because they experienced internet speeds of below 15Mbps.

Members were advised that the independent ‘Think Broadband’ website, which collated information from all internet service providers regarding the available speeds and take up of services, had been reviewed in order to provide an overall view of broadband coverage in both Broadland and also County-wide. The Programme Director confirmed that 95% of Broadland properties currently had access to super-fast broadband but there were approximately 1500 properties (2%) in the area which did not meet the Government’s universal service obligation for broadband.

Members were advised that there were several different solutions available for these 1500 properties, the first being the Government’s universal service obligation where residents could request speeds of at least 10Mbps and downloads of 1Mb. The Panel was informed that BT, via Openreach, was the provider of this solution in Broadland, but that a cost cap of £3400 applied so, if the costs were higher than £3400 for the property, the resident or business would be required to pay the difference. The Programme Director explained that, to enable costs to remain below the cap, the first course of action had usually been to investigate mobile coverage with hybrid solutions to provide 4G coverage by fixing a special receiver to the property.

Members were advised that a second solution, the Gigabit Voucher Scheme, was available for properties in rural locations where internet speeds fell short of the Government’s universal service obligation. The Programme Director explained that grants of up to £3500 for businesses and £1500 for residential properties were available. She clarified that vouchers could be pooled, with a minimum of two properties joining, to increase the value of the pooled grant. The Panel was pleased to note that Norfolk had benefited by approximately £1.1 million from the grant, and was advised that further information regarding the funding was available in the latest Highlight Report, which would be forwarded to members after the meeting.

The Panel was advised that Better Broadband for Norfolk would be rolling out a third contract later in 2020 which would target properties which did not yet have access to super-fast broadband and, where there was no commercial intention to do so. It was noted that this would be an entirely ‘fibre to the premises’ solution which would enable some of the fastest speeds to be

reached in some of the most rural locations, with an anticipated rise in Norfolk from 95% to 97% in those properties which would be able to achieve super-fast broadband.

The Programme Director advised members that the Government had set an objective that all properties should have access to full fibre and it was expected that approximately 80% of these would be provided via commercial companies such as Open Reach, Virgin Media, and some of the smaller companies throughout the area.

The Chairman thanked the Programme Director for her presentation and whilst she was pleased to note that the level of coverage throughout Broadband was at 98%, she stressed the importance of finding a solution for those who were disadvantaged by poor coverage, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, when many residents and businesses needed to be online.

In response to a question from the Chairman regarding the identification of the 2% of properties which could not achieve broadband speeds of 10Mbps, the Programme Director advised that she expected to complete her data analysis by mid to late autumn and would then be able to provide members with a list of properties, split between those which achieved under or over 24Mbps, (the definition of super-fast broadband) in postcode order. In response to a further question, it was clarified that a split between business and residential properties would not be possible as many small businesses operated from residential premises and did not pay for premium broadband services, so could not be identified by service providers.

Members referred to the Gigabit Voucher Scheme and requested further information about how to signpost residents and businesses to the Scheme. The Programme Director advised that the Scheme was operated by Central Government which specifically targeted rural properties with speeds below 100Mbps. She suggested that the Scheme would be useful for groups of residents but also ideal for concentrations of small, rural business which may wish to explore moving, as a group, to a gigabit connection capable infrastructure as this would permit them to run several varied businesses with shared costs. The Panel was advised of the application process and advised that information and a link to the website would be provided to members after the meeting.

A member enquired whether the Council could help further with funding to achieve faster broadband for the remaining 2% of properties in rural areas. The Programme Director agreed that the Council could consider a grant scheme in conjunction with signposting people to the Gigabit Voucher Scheme, but should bear in mind that the third contract would upgrade some of those areas currently affected. In response to a member's request that officers start to explore funding opportunities at a local level without delay, the Programme Director advised that, as the Gigabit Voucher Scheme was only available to properties where no other public funding options were being considered, the Council would be well advised to wait until the Better Broadband for Norfolk report was published in the autumn so they could assess where the gaps remained. She suggested that the Council could, in

the meantime, look to identify suitable rural businesses which could potentially form clusters to share services under the Gigabit Voucher Scheme.

After a brief discussion, the Chairman agreed to forward the Highlight Report to members and summarised the salient conversation points. She then proposed that, once the Better Broadband For Norfolk report had been received in the autumn of 2020, in respect of the remaining 2% of houses and businesses in Broadland without access to super-fast broadband, officers should continue to explore all funding opportunities, secure additional top-up funding and support the provision of super-fast broadband. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Crotch. Voting was then carried out by roll-call, with 4 votes for and 3 abstentions.

It was therefore;

### **RESOLVED:**

That, once the report from Better Broadband for Norfolk report was received in the autumn of 2020, in respect of the remaining 2% of houses and businesses in Broadland without access to super-fast broadband, officers are requested to continue to explore all funding opportunities, secure additional top up funding and support the provision of super-fast broadband.

## **25 ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN BROADLAND**

The Interim Assistant Director of Economic Development summarised the salient points of his report, which included the four key activities for the recovery of the local economy; the New Anglia LEP Economy Recovery Restart Plan, the three-Council Confidence Campaign, the current initiatives to re-open the tourism sector, and the Local Discretionary Grant Fund.

With much of the work of the Economic Development Team currently being focused on the recovery of the local economy, the report laid out the current findings and responses planned to combat areas such as unemployment and businesses.

Members referred to the New Anglia LEP Economy and Recovery Restart Plan and agreed that although it highlighted the aspirations around recovery, it lacked detail of how this would be achieved. Officers recognised the plan did not detail the implementation but felt this might be difficult to show as much of the activity being undertaken, such as tourism recovery, had separate, specific implementation plans in place. However, he reassured members that he would be able to make any specific implementation plans available to members, if required. In response to a member's question regarding the ability of smaller businesses to access digital and marketing training and support, officers explained that webinars and workshops were being coordinated by the Council and the LEP, and that these were being advertised via newsletters.

The Chairman advised members that Cabinet had considered the Council's business plans with the ambition to deliver economic success in the area and was pleased to report the Council's success in the backing of local



businesses and providing advice and guidance to help them to establish, grow and prosper. However, concerns had been raised that, due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the furlough scheme which was due to end in October, and Brexit impending, it was likely that the area would see an increase in unemployment which would require the Council to fully support communities by offering a range of opportunities, skills and employment prospects. The Chairman therefore proposed that Broadland District Council worked closely with the LEP and other partners to minimise job losses in the area with the delivery of the Norfolk and Suffolk Job Support campaign, as described on page five of the Norfolk and Suffolk COVID-19 Economic Recovery Restart Plan. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Crotch and agreed by the Panel.

Turning to the three-Council Confidence Campaign, officers reassured members that planter boxes were being installed in market towns to replace unsightly barriers. In response to a query regarding the roll-out of COVID Kits, which contained equipment including sanitiser and signage, for local parish and town high streets, the Interim Assistant Director confirmed that all town and parish councils had been emailed at least once but that 31 of these had not yet responded. Members were advised which town and parish councils had responded to enable them to liaise with town and parishes within their areas. Officers advised that they would be telephoning towns and parishes who had not responded and would let members know of any who advised they did not require the kits.

A member thanked the officers who were involved in the Confidence Campaign but expressed disappointment that she had not been contacted by telephone to make her aware of the significance of being involved in the programme. In response, the Chairman reminded members that communications had been emailed to them weekly to keep them informed of any activities. Officers regretted that they were not able to do everything they would have wished, due to significant workloads and limited resources, however they advised that there would be many opportunities for members to get involved with the next phase of recovery.

The conversation turned to tourism recovery and the Tourism Officer summarised the salient points in the report. Members were pleased to note the number of procedures in place to re-establish the tourism sector and were advised that surveys carried out by Visit Norfolk had enabled officers to assess the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry and to use this information to develop the Visit East of England and Visitor Economy Recovery Group, as detailed in the report. Members were pleased to note that farmers and other supply chains were included within the Plan, as had been requested at a previous meeting of the Panel.

The Chairman thanked officers and was pleased to note that Broadland had received grant funding for tourism and noted that the Government reduction in VAT had been very welcome for tourism businesses within the area.

The Panel briefly discussed Discretionary Grants and was pleased to note that most of the available funding was accounted for and would be utilised by the end of August 2020. It was also noted that officers were making outgoing calls to businesses to further promote funding.

In response to a member's question concerning the Council's refusal to provide Councillors with information regarding businesses who had not applied for grant funding, the Interim Assistant Director of Economic Development advised that the Managing Director had provided this instruction but that he would seek further clarity from him outside of the meeting.

The Director of Place commended officers on their commitment and dedication during the pandemic, advising that work which would usually have taken months to progress had been undertaken in a matter of weeks, to ensure that residents could return to work and businesses could re-open. The Chairman thanked officers on behalf of the Panel.

The Chairman, commended the report to members and stressed the need to recognise the importance of the tourism and leisure sectors in the economic recovery of the District. Members agreed that the support, which the Council offered would be critical to many businesses and supply chains.

The Chairman thanked officers for an informative and comprehensive report. Voting was then carried out by roll-call, and it was unanimously agreed. It was then;

**RESOLVED:**

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To recommend that Broadland District Council works closely with the LEP and other partners to minimise job losses in the area with the delivery of the Norfolk and Suffolk Job Support campaign, as described on page five of the Norfolk and Suffolk COVID-19 Economic Recovery Restart Plan.

*The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.*

## **Future of Community Grants**

**Report Author(s):** Kerrie Gallagher  
Communities Senior Manager  
[kgallagher@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:kgallagher@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

**Portfolio:** Cllr Jo Copplestone, Economic Development

**Ward(s) Affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report:**

The purpose of this report is to review the first year of member ward grants and other community funding sources, and to put forward proposals for review.

### **Recommendation:**

1. The Panel is asked to endorse officers to take proposals to Cabinet on a new approach to community grants which include:
  - Changes to the member-led ward grant system
  - The introduction of a start-up grant; linked to the new Community at Heart Lottery
  - Development of a whole Council approach to community funding

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council has delivered several community grant schemes in the past which have been predominantly funded through external sources. Only the member ward grant is now left, which is £23,500 per year, and funded internally. This is provided to the community, based on building capacity and infrastructure.
- 1.2 The member ward grant is discretionary, there is no statutory requirement for this work. At a time when Council's budgets (and other funding bodies) are under pressure, we need to ensure that the future member ward grant has a clearly defined role in supporting the prevention agenda to reduce demand on current and future council services by building capacity and infrastructure within the community to allow our residents to help themselves and each other.

- 1.3 Due to the current pandemic many community groups have been placed on hold, which has resulted in a loss of income. However, many of our community groups have really stepped up and out of their comfort zones to support those impacted by the COVID crisis, by providing volunteers and support to residents in need. It is an appropriate time to review our grants to ensure we are best meeting the needs of our communities.
- 1.4 This report outlines proposals to review the current member ward grant scheme; to look at some of the challenges currently faced in its effective delivery and its impact on our communities.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Building community capacity is much bigger than simply providing the community with funding for projects. We utilise an asset-based approach to community development which seeks to build on what is already present in our communities; mobilising individuals and groups to come together in order to realise and develop their strengths. Quite often groups and residents who contact the Councils are looking for support to gain the skills and tools needed to be able to run their own schemes and are not looking for funding. The communities team dealt with 107 contacts last year to support with a wide range of issues.
- 2.2 There are a wide range of potential funding sources for communities to tap into, beyond what the Council can offer. One of the key functions of the communities team is to look for other funding sources to make the Councils money go further. It is easy to look at using our funds first as a 'quick win' and whilst this is popular, it is not always the most appropriate. Where members actively engage with the communities team, we often see better outcomes for the community group and are able to maximise the funding available.
- 2.3 The current member members ward grant is £500 allocated per member to support projects which benefit ward residents. This can be spent on up to 10 individual projects per ward member. Total budget is £23,500.

### **2019/20**

- 2.4 Fifty-two projects were supported last year, with the average spend on a project being £392.08. £20,388 out of the £23,500 was spent from the fund. As well as a member ward grant underspend, five members did not spend any of their budget at all this year, and 10 members spent less than 75% of their ward budget. The member ward grant fund ended on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- 2.5 We saw an increase in applications in February as members tried to reach the deadline. This proved challenging to process payments as officers reported that we saw a reduction in the quality of applications and incomplete applications during this last month.

- 2.6 All the projects funded met the ground rules, although achieving this required challenging conversations with some members. These tended to be members who did not attend training.
- 2.7 There were a range of payments made, with around 75% of spend going on equipment /materials. Just under 20% was spent on buildings / infrastructure. In terms of themes, youth was by far the biggest theme with around 55% of the budget, building maintenance was second with around 15%, and wellbeing, environment and social isolation all around 10%.
- 2.8 Around 80% of the projects can be described as core funding for community groups, i.e. grants have been for ongoing funding to replace materials or equipment. Around 20% of projects could be considered 'place shaping' projects, where the funding from the council has been used to fill a gap in provision where the needs of local residents have not been met, or enable a project to continue, that would otherwise would have folded.
- 2.9 On some occasions the provision of core funding has meant that we are replicating that provided by a range of other funding providers, and we would also expect that the community group or local parish could provide funding for this type of project in many cases.

## **2020/21**

- 2.10 This year so far there has been very little spend, with only one application processed and two in progress. This is to be expected because of the attention which has been focussed on dealing with COVID and community groups have not been meeting. There is a need in our communities for funding however, and we would expect that spend will increase significantly before the deadline in March.
- 2.11 This year, the social isolation funding provided by Norfolk County Council was used to create the 'keep it going grant' which can be used to help existing groups grow and become more sustainable. It can be utilised for day to day running costs or expansion of the project and could include equipment purchase/hire or venue hire. The grant is up to the value of £300, and to date the Council has awarded nine grants that equate to a total spend of £2,700.
- 2.12 Feedback has been received about members ward grant which tells us that several councillors struggle to spend the money, whilst others feel they need more available to them. As previous mentioned, underspend last year was 13%.
- 2.13 We have a clear purpose in the ground rules for member ward grants, in terms of reducing demand on services, supporting inclusive growth and promoting health and wellbeing. However, this is interpreted in many different ways by the community and members, it is also challenging to track the impact that grants have.
- 2.14 Evaluation of the impact of community grants is incredibly difficult. The more preventative a grant is, the less precise an evaluation as to its effectiveness can be. This difficulty can lend itself to grant bodies in general awarding funding to

projects that are dealing with demand management, rather than true prevention and long-term capacity building. However, whilst future evaluation shouldn't be led by 'bean counting', officers are working to tighten up the evaluation process to ensure we can demonstrate the effectiveness of a community grant programme.

- 2.15 Incomplete applications can take time to process; often additional information must be sought by officers to enable effective decision making.
- 2.16 Currently there is little interconnection between community grants and CIL (community infrastructure levy). CIL funding can provide communities with funding related to growth to provide community infrastructure.
- 2.17 On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the Council will be launching the Community at Heart Lottery; the first ticket goes on sale on 12 January 2021 and the first draw takes place on 27 February. This is a weekly online lottery created to support local good causes across the district.
- 2.18 Tickets cost £1, and when supporters buy a ticket they will be able to choose where they want their money to go – 50% of the ticket cost will go to the persons nominated good cause and 10% will go into a community fund run by the council. The remaining 40% will go towards prize money and the operation of the lottery.
- 2.19 Final agreement has not yet been made about how the funds raised from the 10% will be utilised – until we have a clearer idea about what level of income we can expect it is not possible to make a firm decision.

### **3 PROPOSED ACTION**

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the following proposals to revise our community grants package. The proposals look to implement changes to our member-led grant system, following feedback from members and our communities, which will also support our community groups post COVID.
- 3.2 These proposals will look to address the underspend that we have seen over the last few years, providing a more flexible approach and ensuring we have the right mechanisms in place to work closely with communities to target our resources where they are needed the most. This proposal will also address the issues of multi-member Wards having to complete individual applications.
- 3.3 The approach needs to ensure we don't follow a money centred approach but focus on a problem-solving approach. Members and officers need to work together more, within our communities, to identifying what the problem is we are trying to address with each allocation of funding. By identifying what the problem and solution is, we will be more likely to effectively measure the impact of our intervention. Officers will work to review how we measure the impact of community grants for future recommendations.
- 3.4 The new approach should embed itself within the health and wellbeing strategy which will help support a revised evaluation process, enabling us to track the aim

of the funding request, with strategic goals, to support reporting of the added value our funding provides

### **3.5 Single member led funding stream:**

- 3.5.1 The fund opens at the beginning of the financial year and remains until all the money is gone, or until March 1<sup>st</sup>. It is allocated on a first come, first served basis.
- 3.5.2 Funds are accessed by completing a form which is jointly populated by the community group and the Ward member. This format encourages greater partnership working between the community and the member, placing greater emphasis on the community helping themselves. It also ensures that the community who are potentially benefiting from funds can fill in details such as bank details, reducing the amount of duplication and room for error in the current system.
- 3.5.3 Authorisation to allocate funding remains unchanged with the member who has authority to sign off budget spend in their own ward. Where multi-member application, only one application would be required, with a system of each member approving the single application.
- 3.5.4 The funding stream would be accessible to all members to apply for, with a limit of how much they can be awarded in a single year from £50 to a proposed cap of £1,000 which could be spent over single or multiple projects. The total amount of grant funding available does not change. This means that some members may not access any community funding if there is little demand in their Wards, and that others can access more than they can presently in any given year if demand is there.
- 3.5.5 More emphasis on the naming and branding of the scheme to support promotion of its existence, and to encourage the community in being proactive in applying for it - thus supporting the work members currently undertake to promote the grants available.
- 3.5.6 This promotion could particularly work well in areas where local intelligence or data suggests we have issues that need addressing, encouraging awareness of the issue and applications from community groups who can address these issues. This way we can ensure our funding supports 'need' and not 'want'.
- 3.5.7 The single funding stream would be based upon the existing ground rules for accessing member-led funds. The purpose of these changes would be reinforced to make the funds more accessible in areas where they are needed, to meet the council's objectives to reduce demand on long term services and encourage inclusive growth and health and wellbeing in our communities.
- 3.5.8 Where funding is required by a project, the Council needs to reinforce an approach to seek other funding sources first, before using our own limited funds. This approach does not diminish the Council's role in funding but enhances our role as a place shaping organisation and not a funding body.

- 3.5.9 Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked that the amount of funding for member ward grants be reviewed as South Norfolk Council currently have £1000 per member. The amount of discretionary funding the Council chooses to put into the community can be increased if members choose to do so, although with the saving targets currently in place this will mean taking funding from elsewhere.
- 3.5.10 The community at heart lottery, once opened, is likely to enable community groups to raise additional funding themselves with some groups in other areas of the country who benefit from a community lottery raising several thousand pounds a year.

### **Start-up grant**

- 3.6 To build on the success of the keep it going grant, a similar light touch approach could be used to kick start worthwhile community activity. Grants of up to £300 could be offered to informal groups (of 3 or more people) looking to try out an idea for a community project. This is an area where projects currently struggle the most to get funding, which prevents some ideas even getting off the ground. By adopting this approach, we would be supporting real innovation at a grassroots level for very little expenditure.
- 3.7 A potential budget of £5,000 for the first year would allow testing this concept to see how it works, and there is scope to utilise the money raised from the lottery to fund this in the future if it is successful.

### **3.8 Infrastructure projects**

- 3.9 For applications over £10,000, projects tend to be more based on physical infrastructure rather than human resources. Working closely with the planning and economic development teams, there is opportunity to create a whole council approach to funding, by linking together community grants and CIL to provide the appropriate funding stream and support. Communities see themselves as one, therefore the Council needs to work together as one team to identify the right route for funding applications.
- 3.10 It is proposed that officers work together to identify opportunities to create a flexible whole Council approach to community grants and CIL funding.

## **4 OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The current arrangements could be kept in place. Whilst this would still ensure money goes out to communities, we have the chance to review year one and develop our model using learning from last year.

## **5 ISSUES AND RISKS**

- 5.1 Resource Implications: there is no requirement for extra resources to implement changes.
- 5.2 Legal Implications: None



5.3 Equality Implications: None

5.4 Environmental Impact: None

5.5 Crime and Disorder: Community capacity building and cohesion contributes to safer communities.

5.6 Risks: None

## **6 CONCLUSION**

6.1 The Council's member ward grant scheme has supported a wide range of projects, building on the Council's strong reputation for community support. By reviewing how we deliver the entire grants function for the Council we can more effectively support the work within the community to support local community projects

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 The Panel is asked to endorse officers to take proposals to Cabinet on a new approach to community grants which include:

- Changes to the member-led ward grant system
- The introduction of a start-up grant; linked to the new Community at Heart Lottery
- Development of a whole council approach to community funding