

TITLE: Growth and Infrastructure Fund

Committee: Finance and Assets

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1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1. To consider opening the Growth and Infrastructure Fund for a further round of applications.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1. Members are requested to:

- i) Agree that the Fund will be reopened on Monday 9 October 2023 and closed at 5pm on Friday 8 December 2023 and the Council reserves the right to reopen the Fund for further round(s) of applications in the event that it is not fully utilised,

- ii) Approve the scheme eligibility criteria at Appendix 1,

- iii) Approve the Growth and Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2, and

- iv) Appoint five Members to the Growth and Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel as set out in paragraph 4.6 of this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1. Utilising the Cambridgeshire Horizons money that the Council received, the East Cambridgeshire Growth and Infrastructure Fund was set up and in November 2022 this Committee awarded up to £2,307,216 to community projects across the district.

- 3.2. The District Council has recently been informed by Stretham Parish Council that the Stretham Community Hub and GP Rooms project, which was awarded up to £700,000, will not be going ahead.

- 3.3. The Isleham Community Association Commercial Kitchen project was awarded £22,500 but as the work came in under budget only £15,317.38 was claimed.

- 3.4. Therefore £707,182.62 is now available to fund other eligible community projects.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSION(S)

- 4.1. It is recommended that the Growth and Infrastructure Fund is reopened for applications, based on the previous scheme.

- 4.2. Proposed projects will be considered with regard to the following criteria:

- Evidence that the project is necessary to support local growth
- The benefits provided by the project
- Evidence of local resident and stakeholder involvement in and support for the project
- Alignment with the Council's infrastructure priorities
- The level of match funding that the project has secured, a minimum of 10% match funding is required
- Commitment to Net Zero Carbon and a green approach, demonstrating the highest possible quality standards in terms of design, materials, workmanship and environment in its delivery in order to achieve sustainability

4.3. The ability of the applicant to deliver the expected benefits on time and within budget will also be considered.

4.4. If approved, the Fund will be open for applications from Monday 9 October 2023 until 5pm on Friday 8 December 2023. Applicants will be required to complete an application form and submit supporting evidence.

4.5. If not all of the funding is allocated a further application round will be held.

4.6. A scoring panel will need to be established to score the applications. The Panel will be cross party consisting of 4 Conservatives and 3 Liberal Democrats. The Terms of Reference for the Panel are provided at Appendix 2.

4.7. Applications will be considered by the Growth and Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel. Their recommendations will be presented to this Committee for approval.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1. These are identified in the main body of the report.

5.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.

5.3. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Growth and Infrastructure Fund eligibility criteria

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference: Growth and Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel

Background Documents:

Minutes of the Finance and Assets Committee meeting held on 24 November 2022.

East Cambridgeshire Growth and Infrastructure Fund eligibility criteria

The East Cambridgeshire Growth and Infrastructure Fund has been set up to support the sustainable growth of East Cambridgeshire by providing funding towards infrastructure projects necessary to deliver sustainable growth and improve quality of life for residents across the district.

The Fund will provide capital funding towards projects that:

- Support growth across the district
- Fit with the Council's infrastructure priorities
- Are match funded

What can be funded

The scheme will provide capital funding towards the delivery of local infrastructure (including but not limited to transport, health care, social, cultural, education and recreational facilities) to assist, promote, encourage, develop and secure sustainable growth and enable people to live and/or work in East Cambridgeshire.

It can only be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing infrastructure if that is necessary to support growth.

Support will not be given to or for:

- Projects not related to growth
- Projects requiring revenue funding
- Routine operating costs or other revenue expenditure
- Projects on which work has already commenced
- Infrastructure located outside East Cambridgeshire, even if used by East Cambridgeshire residents

Eligibility criteria

Proposed projects will be considered with regard to the following criteria:

- Evidence that the project is necessary to support local growth
- The benefits provided by the project
- Evidence of local resident and stakeholder involvement in and support for the project
- Alignment with the Council's infrastructure priorities
- The level of match funding that the project has been secured
- Commitment to Net Zero Carbon and a green approach, demonstrating the highest possible quality standards in terms of design, materials, workmanship and environment in its delivery in order to achieve sustainability

The ability of the applicant to deliver the expected benefits on time and within budget will also be considered.

How to apply

The fund will open for applications from 9 October 2023 until 5pm on 8 December 2023.

If not all of the funding is allocated a further application round will be held.

Applicants will be required to complete an application form and submit supporting evidence. A minimum of 10% match funding is required.

Applicant organisations must have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives and operational and governance procedures.

Applications will be assessed by the Growth and Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel. Their recommendations will be presented to the Council's Finance and Assets Committee for approval.

GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE FUND SCORING PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The Growth & Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel (the Panel), appointed by Finance & Assets Committee, shall comprise 7 elected Members; 4 Conservatives and 3 Liberal Democrats. A Chairman will be elected at the first Working Party Meeting.
- 1.2 The Panel will continue until it completes the work set out in the Terms of Reference.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 To score applications for the Growth & Infrastructure Fund against the criteria approved by the Finance & Assets Committee.

3.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 The Panel has a sole purpose to meet to score applications received for the Growth & Infrastructure Fund.
- 3.2 The Panel shall use the criteria approved by the Finance & Assets Committee to score the applications. Equal weighting shall be applied to the criteria.
- 3.3 The Panel shall make recommendations to the Finance & Assets Committee for the award of any grant under the Growth & Infrastructure Fund.

4.0 OPERATION OF THE PANEL

- 4.1 The Panel shall meet when required to score applications received for the Growth & Infrastructure Fund.
- 4.2 The Panel will be supported by Officers.
- 4.3 Minutes will be recorded for all meetings.