



Policy and Resources Committee - 13 September 2010

Application to the Village Hall Grant Scheme

Summary

This report asks Members to consider an application to the Village Hall Grant Scheme for improvements to community facilities in Polebrook village.

Attachment(s)

None

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council provides a "Village Halls Grant Scheme" to help with improving or replacing facilities at an existing village hall.
- 1.2 The current scheme allows for the award of a grant or loan based on the following formula:
 - Up to 70% of the total scheme/project costs, up to the first £10,000 and
 - Up to 35% of the remainder of any costs in excess of £10,000.
- 1.3 At a meeting of this Committee on 20 April 2009 (minute 468 refers) Members resolved to apply a ceiling limit of £25,000 to all applications, regardless of the maximum grant an applicant would be eligible for under this scheme.
- 1.4 In addition the village hall must be run by a properly constituted group established to improve quality of life for all members of the immediate community. The hall must not be owned by any individual section of the community and cannot have received grant funding under the Village Hall Grant Scheme within the previous five years.
- 1.5 An application has been received from Polebrook Parish Council for the refurbishment of Polebrook village hall. Officers are satisfied that the application meets the relevant criteria.

2. Application Details

- 2.1 The project proposes to refurbish the village hall inside and out. The total cost of the works is quoted at £60,500.
- 2.2 In summary the works include:
 - New windows on the north and east elevations
 - Installation of a new retaining wall
 - New railings and steps
 - Guttering and storm waster drain connections
 - Courtyard surfacing and works to the access path
 - Roof works for the lobby only
 - Provision of a stair climber and improvements to the door threshold to enable disabled access, due to restricted space
 - Refurbishments to toilets including provision of disabled toilet facilities
 - New kitchen facilities
 - Various internal works to walls, doors and fixtures and fittings
- 2.3 The work to the hall will provide much improved disabled access and facilities. External works will have a positive impact on the conservation area which the hall is

located in. The applicant states that the improvements to the hall will mean it is a more attractive venue for local groups and events, which will enhance the community lifestyle within Polebrook village. The applicant has indicated that without the works the condition of the hall could result in the closure the hall for health and safety reasons.

2.4 The Parish Council has obtained the necessary planning permissions – EN/09/01107/FUL for the works proposed.

2.5 In addition to the application to this fund, the Parish Council has applied to the following seeking support:

Funding body	Amount requested £	Status
Maud Elkington Trust	4,002	Awaiting response
Northamptonshire County Council (Empowering Councillors Scheme)	5,518	Awaiting response
Kings Cliffe Environmental Association	15,162	Awaiting response
Cory Environmental Trust in East Northamptonshire	11,034	Awarded £5,518.00
Awards for all	10,000	Awaiting response

2.6 The Parish Council is requesting funds to the sum of £24,070 from the Village Hall Grant Scheme to fund the external works and the electrical works areas of the project. Based on the formula set out in paragraph 1.2 above, the applicant would be eligible for a maximum grant as follows:

	£
Total project costs	60,500
70% of the first £10,000	7,000
35% of remaining costs	<u>17,675</u>
Maximum grant eligible	<u>24,675</u>

2.7 Members will note that the total amount of funding requested from other sources in 2.5 above, totals £40,200 when taking into account the £5,518 actually awarded by Cory. If successful with its other applications, including the maximum grant eligible for under the Village Hall Grant Scheme as set out in 2.6 above, it would give the applicant a total of £64,875. The project costs total £60,500.

2.8 The applicant is awaiting responses for all of the requests except Cory. It may be that it is not successful in achieving all of these requests, in whole or part, and the award from Cory is an example of this. The applicant is aware that if it cannot achieve the full amount of funding it needs for the project adjustments to the scheme will need to be made. If Members are minded to support this application and award the total amount eligible for, it could strengthen the applicant's requests for funding from other sources.

3. Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that Members consider and approve the award of grant to the sum of £24,675. This is the maximum award available using the grant criteria calculation.

Implications:

Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy

Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours			<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:			<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval			<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage		<input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph 2.6		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget Village Halls (JCF203)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation		<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -		<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph		<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph		<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: Local Government Act 2000		
	Other considerations:		
Background Papers: Grant application file for the project held by the Community Development Team.			
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Date: 20 August 2010			
CFO		MO	
			CX

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 20)