

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Policy &amp; Finance Committee – 26 October 2023</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Capital Projects (Arun Community Fund)</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Karl Roberts – Joint Interim Chief Executive and Director of Growth</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Stanley</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b>  The intention of the fund is that priority should be given to projects which assist in delivering the Councils vision 2022-2026.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b>  It is likely that most projects which are considered under this fund will be delivered through the Councils Property & Estates team or Parks team if it involves Arun land.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b>  The financial implications outlined in this report have been included in the Council's approved 2023/24 Revenue Budget.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to put in place a mechanism by which potential qualifying capital projects for the Arun Community Fund can be assessed.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agree to the Arun Community Fund having the following parameters.

- 1) The fund can only be used to support the delivery of small one-off capital community focused projects and not revenue projects.
- 2) In order to be a qualifying project, the project should meet at least one of the following objectives.
  - Will measurably improve the economic, social and/or environmental wellbeing of an area within the district of Arun.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards improving the economic wellbeing of the residents or business.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards delivering the right homes in the right place.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards addressing climate change.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards improving biodiversity.

- 3) The number of projects being developed at any one time should not exceed two.
- 4) The capital cost of an individual project should not exceed £33k.
- 5) Any project should have the support of at least one ward member.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 3.1 As part of the budget for 23/24 a proposal to set aside a sum of money to deliver a number of small community projects similar to this across the District was confirmed. Clearly not all projects can or should be funded in one year; therefore, there will need to be a sifting/bidding process agreed so that there is transparency over what is proposed and the costs of delivery and maintaining the project.
- 3.2 This report seeks Member agreement to the above and how funding should be used. Alternatively, the Committee could decide not to proceed with the provision of this fund in order to assist the Council in managing its financial challenges.

### **4. DETAIL**

- 4.1 In the 2023/24 budget the sum of £100k was set aside for a Community Fund. This fund is intended to support the delivery of small one-off capital community focused projects (not revenue projects since funding is only agreed on a yearly basis through the normal budget process). To identify what might count as a suitable capital project it is recommended that projects should meet at least one of the following objectives.
  - Will measurably improve the economic, social and/or environmental wellbeing of an area within the district of Arun.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards improving the economic wellbeing of the residents or business.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards delivering the right homes in the right place.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards addressing climate change.
  - Will make a positive contribution towards improving biodiversity.
- 4.2 Any project clearly requires a degree of development work, and this can be time consuming at a time when resources available to undertake such work are limited. Furthermore, in order that the fund supports a number of projects there needs to be a limit on the cost of a single project. Therefore, there needs to be some form of filtering and prioritisation undertaken if multiple requests are received. Therefore, it is recommended that the number of projects being developed at any one time doesn't exceed two and the capital cost of an individual project does not exceed £33k. This should mean that overall funds currently available should support at least 3 projects per annum.

4.3 For each promoted project it is recommended that the project should have the support of at least one district ward member who should provide information relating to the following.

- Title of project
- Purpose of project?
- Which objectives does the project support?

4.4 A short report will be prepared for this committee (Policy & Finance) by officers regarding any requests received providing information where available on such matters as the following.

- Any information on likely capital costs
- Any actual or potential lost income if it relates to an Arun asset.
- Any known or likely revenue implications for the Council which will have to be borne by existing budgets.
- Other possible options (if applicable).
- Public consultation (if applicable)
- Involvement of any third parties (if applicable)
- Risk register
- Indicative timeline with key milestones
- Future maintenance arrangements

4.5 It is recommended that the member submitting the request for the project to be supported by invited to speak to the committee.

4.6 It is then recommended that the committee then decide if the project should proceed. Reference back to committee will only be necessary if in developing the full project details there are likely to be an overspend of the available budget, significant revenue implications or public opposition following public consultation emerge.

4.7 If there is more than one project under consideration and there is insufficient funds to support all the projects then the committee will have to decide how to prioritise which project(s) is/are supported. It is recommended that this be done on the basis of considering in order of priority - how many objectives does the project meet, the level of public support and cost.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

6.1 None directly arising from this report. Alternatively, the Committee could decide not to proceed with the provision of this fund in order to assist the Council in managing its financial challenges.

**7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 7.1 It is important to stress at this point that the Council's financial position as reported to members means that any additional funding outside of the overall community fund and any significant revenue implications cannot be supported currently and would lead to a recommendation to cancel the project.

**8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The risks associated with this report are minimal. However, each capital project will need to have its own risk register.

**9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

- 9.1 No specific legal implications.

**10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 10.1 The main implications will arise regarding the delivery of individual projects. Due to the current vacancies in the Property & Estates service it may be necessary to outsource the development of the project. These costs will have to be covered within the proposed £33k limit per project.

**11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

- 11.1 None directly arising from this report.

**12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

- 12.1 None directly arising from this report. The main implications may arise when individual projects are considered.

**13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

- 13.1 None directly arising from this report.

**14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

- 14.1 None directly arising from this report.

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 15.1 None directly arising from this report.

**16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

- 16.1 None directly arising from this report.

## **17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

17.1 None directly arising from this report.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

None