

South Lakeland District Council
DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISION
Date of proposed decision: 14 March 2019
LOCALLY IMPORTANT PROJECTS 2019

PORTFOLIO:	Councillor Jonathan Brook – Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder
DECISION MAKER:	David Sykes – Director People and Places
REPORT AUTHOR:	Simon Blyth – Principal Partnerships and Community Officer
WARDS:	All
FORWARD PLAN:	Not applicable

1.0 EXPECTED OUTCOME

- 1.1 The allocation of funding to Locally Important Projects (LIPs) supports the delivery of appropriate infrastructure works which address priorities identified in local communities

2.0 PROPOSED DECISION

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Director of People and Places will:-

- (1) Approve the awarding of grants set out in 3.6 of this report, as recommended by the Locally Important Projects Panel; and
- (2) Authorise officers, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, to finalise terms of the separate funding agreements with each organisation.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The New Homes Bonus (NHB) commenced in April 2011. It is calculated based on the additional Council Tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, with an additional amount of £350 for each affordable home. Cabinet established a protocol that NHB Funds would be apportioned:
- 40% Locally Important Projects
 - 60% Supporting Affordable Housing and investment in housing matters and Neighbourhood Planning.
- 3.2 A detailed scheme for receipt and assessment of LIPs was approved and Cabinet agreed that NHB bids under £50,000 should be determined by Delegated Executive Decision. LIPs funding can be used to support the delivery of appropriate infrastructure works such as additional, or extension of, social facilities and improvements to paths, walkways and the local environment. Projects must meet local community aspirations and needs, and assist the delivery of local community plan priorities.

- 3.3 LIPs can be used to support wider provision of community infrastructure or facilities which help a community adapt or address needs brought about by new development. LIPs provide an opportunity for matching other sources of funding available to local communities. Organisations that are eligible to apply for funding for a Locally Important Project are Parish and Town Councils and Community Organisations. Applications in each case are assessed and scored against a series of criteria but principally they must address community infrastructure needs and provide good value for money and deliverability.
- 3.4 The first round of bids was approved in September 2013 with subsequent rounds since then. A seventh round of bids opened in December 2018 and 27 applications were received (with bids totalling £448,751) before the deadline of 11 January 2019, please see appendix 1 for a full summary.
- 3.5 A Panel comprising members with officer support considered the applications which were each scored against the agreed criteria. The rationale for awarding grants includes, but is not limited to, high overall scores, value to the community & disadvantaged groups and links to Council Plan priorities, and a high level of match funding and partner buy-in. The grant award will be subject to any requests for clarification and relevant criteria being satisfied, and the signing of a funding agreement.
- 3.6 The following is a list of allocations recommended by the Local Important Projects Panel.

RECOMMENDED LIPs ALLOCATIONS 2019/2020

Organisation	Project	Proposed Grant
Argles Memorial Hall	Upgrade to Windows in Hall	£2,000
Arnside Educational Institute	Stage & Facilities Refurbishment	£5,000
Arnside Parish Council	Pier Railing Replacement	£5,000
Crosthwaite Exchange	Upgrades to Kitchen	£2,000
Dent Parish Council	Fencing around Playground	£3,000
Ford Park Community Group	Infrastructure Improvements	£5,000
Furness Youth Theatre	New Printer	£250
Kendal Civic Society	Nobles Rest Entrance	£12,000
Levens Parish Council	Levens Village Hall	£40,000
Levens Playing Field Committee	Levens Playing Field Development	£7,500

Preston Patrick Memorial Hall	Car Park Resurface	£2,000
Quaker Tapestry	New Entrance Facilities	£3,700
Space2Create	New Reception Facilities	£7,500
Stainton Parish Council	B4RN for Stainton	£20,000
Staveley Parish Council	Jacks Corner – Community Space	£2,700
The Coniston Institute	Toilet Block	£20,000
The New Hutton Institute	Kitchen Extension	£5,000
Ulverston Town Council	North Lonsdale Road Play Area	£20,000
Windermere & Bowness Civic Society	Accessibility to Biskey Howe Point	£2,271
Total recommended:	£164,921	

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Applications were sought for LIPs funding by promoting the fund through emails to Councillors and Parish and Town Councils, Local Area Partnerships, the Council Website and the Council newsletter. The applicants were required to provide information on how their project reflected community priorities as established through a community plan or local survey.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 The recommendations for allocating the Locally Important Projects funds have been based on an approved objective assessment process. No alternatives are available if the funding is to be allocated within the scheme.

6.0 LINKS TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

6.1 Council Plan Housing Priority: 'We will continue to use our resources (e.g. New Homes Bonus and Second Homes Fund) and assess how they are best applied to different delivery models, to help build affordable housing and to support locally important projects'.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial and Resources

7.1.1 The NHB due for 2019/20 is £516.7k as per the budget to be approved by Council on 26th February 2018. This is allocated to priorities based on the previously determined split of 40:60. This means funding for Locally Important Project schemes (40% allocation) is £206.7k.

7.1.2 All Members have been allocated £1,000 for projects in their Wards in 2019/20. The £51,000 required to fund this has been allocated from the 40% funds. In addition, as part of the 19/20 budget, it is also proposed that £35k is used as part of the Council's contribution towards the Burton in Kendal heritage project. This means £120,700 is available for allocation to LIPs Grant Funding from the 2019/20 NHB grant.

7.1.3 The recommended total amount awarded through this application process to the bodies above for 2019-20 is £164,921 of which £120,700 can be accommodated from the available NHB allocation, as detailed in 7.1.2. A further £44,221 is available to be carried forward from part of the uncommitted amounts from previous LIP rounds and includes a transfer of £20,000 from the Community Grants Budget.

7.1.4 The Government has indicated that the NHB is not delivering its objectives and therefore it is expected that income from this source will reduce or stop at the end of the current financial year.

7.2 Human Resources

7.2.1 Existing resources are required to administer the LIPs application process. In addition some projects require ongoing employee involvement as part of the agreed Community Spaces work programme.

7.3 Legal

7.3.1 When entering into funding arrangements such as these, it is necessary to consider whether State Aid rules apply. There are five key tests that must be taken into account when considering this issue. They are as follows:-

- Is the funding from State resources?
- Is a selective competitive advantage given to the recipient?
- Is the recipient an economic undertaking?
- Does the aid distort, or have the potential to distort, competition?
- Does the aid affect, or have the potential to affect, trade between Member States of the EU?

7.3.2 There may be State Aid implications, so the support proposed for each organisation will be looked at by the Solicitor to the Council on a case by case basis. There will be a need to make enquiries of all recipients as to the amount of State Aid funding they have received in the last 3 years. The grant agreements and offer letters will then need to be drafted so as to comply with the relevant regulations.

7.4 Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4.1

Have you completed and Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please confirm that it is attached to the report in the appendices.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of health, social, economic and environmental impacts.	The recommended projects will have various positive impacts including improvements to green spaces and access to community facilities.	

7.5 Equality and Diversity

7.5.1

Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please confirm that it is attached to the report in the appendices.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons.	The criteria for LIPs applications included an assessment that an applicant and their project is committed to Equality and Diversity and organisations provided copies of any related policies.
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7.6 Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Challenge to decisions made in allocating New Homes Bonus to Locally Important Projects	Costs and adverse publicity	Clear guidelines for applicants provided consistently and objectively used in the applications assessment process.
Organisation unable to deliver projects.	Costs and adverse publicity.	Funding agreements will contain the necessary requirements and protections for the Council.

CONTACT OFFICERS

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APPENDICES ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT

Appendix No.	
1	Summary of All LIPs Applications 2019-20
2	Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

Name of Background document	Where it is available
None	

TRACKING INFORMATION

Assistant Director	Portfolio Holder	Solicitor to the Council	SMT	Scrutiny Committee
15/02/2019	15/02/2019	15/02/2019		n/a
Executive (Cabinet)	Committee	Council	Section 151 Officer	Monitoring Officer
n/a	n/a	n/a	15/02/2019	15/02/2019

Human Resource Services Manager	Leader	Ward Councillor(s)	Comms Team	Financial Services Manager
15/02/2019	n/a	n/a		15/02/2019

Note – Report authors must consult the relevant Portfolio Holder, members of the Senior Management Team, the Monitoring Officer, and any other interested parties before a decision can be taken. If any objections are received, they must be reported at the meeting before the decision is taken.

Signed:		Decision Maker's title:	
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