

**South Lakeland District Council
Cabinet**

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

Locally Important Projects and Allocations 2022/23

Portfolio: Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder
Report from: Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Report Author: Simon Blyth – Strategy Specialist
Wards: (All Wards);
Forward Plan: Not applicable

Links to Council Plan Priorities:

- Working across boundaries – N/A
 - Delivering a balanced community – N/A
 - A fairer South Lakeland – commissioning services through the third sector
 - Addressing the climate emergency – working with partners to deliver energy saving and energy efficiency initiatives, pursuing opportunities to develop renewable energy, promoting environmental technologies and the green economy, achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2037
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1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success

1.1 This report recommends allocating the remaining unspent and unallocated Locally Important Projects (LIPs) budget (£61,500) to benefit local communities by supporting important grassroots projects. Due to the ending of SLDC, and the fact that all future decisions will be taken by the new Westmorland & Furness Council, a new in-house funding round is not practicable. The recommendations will ensure the remaining funds are used in line with local and council priorities and will be allocated for projects to commence in the 2022/2023 financial year.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (1) Approve £8000 for the upgrade of Milnthorpe Public Conveniences and £2600 for Grange Public Conveniences**
- (2) Approve an additional £3,900 (supplementing their original successful £20,000 LIPs bid) for Hawkshead Parish Council for their Town Squares project in order to commence the works.**
- (3) Approve the remaining £13,875 be transferred as a grant to Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) to supplement their Community Climate Grants Fund and a payment of £1125 be made to CAfS to cover their administration of the funding.**
- (4) To approve that the remaining £12,000 is allocated to Kendal Civic Society for an enhancement project in Nobles Rest Park.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 Locally Important Projects (LIPs) are funded by the New Homes Bonus. Under the New Homes Bonus the Government matches the Council Tax raised from new homes and properties brought back into use, with another £350 for each affordable home.
- 3.2 Cabinet approved a Locally Important Projects process in January 2013. There have been 7 funding rounds to date with Parish/Town Councils, Community Organisations and Charities eligible to apply.
- 3.3 The detailed scheme for LIPs approved by Cabinet in January 2013 specified that applications for LIPs would be evaluated on the following criteria:

Community Needs

- 1. Proposals consistent with the infrastructure needs of the area
- 2. Evidence of local support expressed in local community plans/LAP priorities
- 3. The extent of need or the community benefit to the locality.
- 4. Compatibility with the Council's priorities.

Value for Money

- 5. A degree of certainty the project will proceed ie robust costs and timescales
 - 6. The extent of sustainability of the project with maintenance and energy use.
 - 7. Proposals will help secure other funding
 - 8. The funding from the Council is justified
- 3.4 The last LIPs round took place in 2019. Due to the pandemic we have been unable to run in 2020 and 2021.
 - 3.5 The recommendations (in line with LIPs criteria above) for allocating the remaining funding are as follows:
 - 3.6 Capital improvements to Milnthorpe and Grange public conveniences: SLDC funded 8 “strategic” public conveniences across South Lakeland in a tapering 5 year agreement which expired in March 2022. The intention was for the parish and town councils to work towards fully financially sustainable public conveniences. However, following meetings with all parish and town councils involved, both Milnthorpe PC and Grange TC requested further one off support to make improvements to ensure sustainability. Following consultation with officers and members we are recommending further one off capital payments of £2600 for Grange (tiling, guttering, fascia boards, sills work, external wall cleansing and painting ceiling) and £8000 for Milnthorpe, for introducing a cashless system for the toilets, maintenance costs, systems to stop tailgating and/ or installation of solar panels.
 - 3.7 We are recommending an additional payment of £3900 to Hawkshead Parish Council (supplementing an award of £20,000 in the 2017 LIPs round, part of the £61,500) in order to get the Town Squares enhancement project completed. This project is around reducing and slowing traffic, and upgrade works to the infrastructure of the squares to promote cycling and walking.

- 3.8 We are recommending the remaining funding of £13,875 is allocated to Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) as a grant to boost their Community Climate Grants Fund. This fund is aimed at projects which work towards achieving a net zero carbon South Lakeland, through reducing carbon emissions and building “green” skills and awareness. The fund will be open for applications from South Lakeland’s 3rd sector and community groups. It is proposed that a further contribution of £1,125 is paid to CAfS to cover their administration of this funding.
- 3.9 The Kendal Civic Society award was originally for a new entrance to Nobles Rest - however legal issues made this project unworkable. An alternative project was put forward to allow for the main path to join up with the Central monument which now displays perennial planting. This was approved by officers and the Portfolio Holder and will complete the original work programme for the Park.

4.0 Appendices Attached to this Report

| Appendix No. | Name of Appendix |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Hawkshead PC project |
| 2 | Kendal Civic Society project |
| 3 | Milnthorpe PC project |
| 4 | Grange TC project |

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 Officers in Strategy and Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and Climate Change at SLDC have been consulted. In addition CAfS and Hawkshead, Milnthorpe and Grange Parish and Town Councils (along with all parish and town councils in receipt of the 5 year funding) have been consulted.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 An option was considered to run a further LIPs round internally, however the limited funding available and the lack of officer capacity ruled this out.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 Cabinet approval is sought for the allocation of funding from the unspent and unallocated Locally Important Projects (LIPs) budget (£61,500) to a series of local projects identified in the report.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no staffing implications as the allocation of the funding will be to the detailed organisations who will administer the funding provided.

Legal

- 7.3 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of funding from the unspent and unallocated Locally Important Projects (LIPs) budget (£61,500) to a series of local projects identified in the recommendations. The Council’s Constitution (Part 3 Scheme of Delegation) delegates to the Director of Customer and Commercial Services authority to determine bids of up to £50,000 in respect of proposals for “Locally Important Projects” by Delegated Executive Decision. The criteria originally specified for LIPs was previously approved by Cabinet (CEX/127 (2012/13)) and this matter is returning before Cabinet for approval of the specific projects and proposals outlined above.

7.4 If the proposals are approved by Cabinet, appropriate agreements will need to be put in place with the recipient for each project. There may be subsidy control implications and so the support proposed for each organisation will be referred to Legal on a case by case basis. The agreements will need to include appropriate provisions accordingly.

Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

7.5 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? Yes

7.6 Summary of Health and Sustainability Impacts

| | | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Unknown |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Environment and Health | Greenhouse gases emissions | X | | | |
| | Air Quality | X | | | |
| | Biodiversity | X | | | |
| | Impacts of Climate Change | X | | | |
| | Reduced or zero requirement for energy, building space, materials or travel | | x | | |
| | Active Travel | x | | | |
| Economy and Culture | Inclusive and sustainable development | | X | | |
| | Jobs and levels of pay | | X | | |
| | Healthier high streets | x | | | |
| | Culture, creativity and heritage | | x | | |
| Housing and Communities | Standard of housing | | X | | |
| | Access to housing | | X | | |
| | Crime | | X | | |
| | Social connectedness | x | | | |

Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? Yes

7.8 Summary of Equality and Diversity impacts

| Please indicate: P = Positive impact; 0 = Neutral; N = Negative; Enter "X" | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Age | P | x | 0 | | N | |
| Disability | P | | 0 | x | N | |
| Gender reassignment (transgender) | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Marriage & civil partnership | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Pregnancy & maternity | P | | 0 | X | N | |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Race/ethnicity | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Religion or belief | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Sex/gender | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Sexual orientation | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Armed forces families | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Rurality | P | | 0 | X | N | |
| Socio-economic disadvantage | P | | 0 | x | N | |

| Risk Management | Consequence | Controls required |
|--|--|---|
| The additional funding for Hawkshead Parish Council does not result in the project commencing. | SLDC will have to retain the funding and transfer across into the new Westmorland and Furness Council. | The funding can be withdrawn if no demonstrable progress is being made and the Portfolio Holder is in agreement |

Contact Officers

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Background Documents Available

| Name of Background document | Where it is available |
|--|--|
| Cabinet Strategic Public Conveniences report | Strategic Public Conveniences - Funding Contributions.pdf (southlakeland.gov.uk) : |
| LIPs/ New Homes Bonus Cabinet report | 11_01_New_Homes_Bonus_Cab_jan_13.pdf (southlakeland.gov.uk) : |
| CAfS : Community Climate Grants | Zero Carbon Cumbria - Community Climate Grants - CAfS |

Tracking Information

| Signed off by | Date sent | Date Signed off |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Section 151 Officer | 05/12/22 | 10/01/23 |
| Monitoring Officer | 05/12/22 | 06/01/23 |
| CMT | 05/12/22 | 14/12/22 |

| Circulated to | Date sent |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Lead Specialist | 05/12/22 |
| Human Resources Lead Specialist | 05/12/22 |
| Communications Team | N/A |
| Leader | 05/12/22 |
| Committee Chairman | N/A |
| Portfolio Holder | 05/12/22 |
| Ward Councillor(s) | N/A |
| Committee | N/A |
| Executive (Cabinet) | N/A |
| Council | N/A |