



## CABINET – 2ND APRIL 2014

**SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY SCHEMES FUNDING 2014/2015**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of funding from the Maintenance of Community Schemes Budget for 2014-2015.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Council has allocated funding to support the maintenance of community schemes. The Community Schemes budget for 2014/15 is £252,000. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the allocation of that budget in accordance with proposals set out in tabular form in paragraph 4.5.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Maintaining community schemes contributes to all five Priorities within the Caerphilly Local Service Board single integrated plan, Caerphilly Delivers, and Objectives 1 and 3 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2012.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The Council has allocated funding over previous years for the maintenance of community schemes. For example, the type of work carried out by the NCS Community Response Team includes the repair of seats, the replacement of vandalised street furniture and hard landscaping and other small items of maintenance work. Works of this type are well received by Members and the community because they attend to items that would not normally be picked up in other mainstream budgets. In addition, high profile schemes such as repainting of street furniture in town centres along with planting projects have helped the county borough become a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. Some of the budget has been allocated for funding the maintenance of schemes that have been initiated by the community (e.g. playgrounds, MUGAs, etc) and is very important where day-to-day maintenance issues are not otherwise provided for.
- 4.2 The community partnership allocation has helped to take forward small community focused projects, empowering local community groups and at the same time adding to the sense of a well kept county borough. Over this last year these have included a play park in New Tredegar, path repair in Phillipstown, and fencing at Wern Field, Nelson. During 2013/14 the allocation to the Living Environment LEQ Partnership has provided support for a number of initiatives including Go Wild!, Pride In Your Pitch, and River Schools. The allocation to parks and cemeteries funded a number of projects in 2013/14 including resurfacing of Pontlottyn Welfare Ground access road, construction of a boundary wall at Bargoed Park/lodge, a new

knee rail to stop anti social behaviour at Rhymney Park, and drainage works to path/field at Woodfieldside pitch. It is proposed that an allocation for these types of projects continues for 2014/15. It is also proposed to continue to provide support for the Invasive Species Officer. Over 900 sites are being treated in the county borough for invasive plants, primarily Japanese Knotweed, totalling an area of over 400,000 square metres.

- 4.3 Our main towns will receive an allocation to reflect the aim of the council to keep its county borough clean and attractive and to support the Town Centre Management function in each. An allocation of funding to the Probation Trust together with a contribution from Community and Leisure Services in respect of a vehicle will allow continuation of Community Payback involvement in graffiti removal, environmental improvements and clean up campaigns.
- 4.4 The Community Schemes budget has been reduced to £252,000 for 2014/15 following Cabinet's approval of a virement from this budget to address an unavoidable additional cost pressure in respect of care home fees in the Directorate of Social Services. The proposed allocation of this budget results from proposals developed by the Officer Maintenance Group representing relevant functions from the Environment Directorate. These are laid out in more detail in the table in paragraph 4.5 below.
- 4.5 The proposals for the expenditure of the funds are as follows:

PROPOSAL	Allocation £000,s
Community Response Team (NCS) plus materials	100
Urban Renewal (town centre areas of Caerphilly, Bargoed, Risca, Blackwood, Ystrad Mynach)	20
Community Partnerships (items identified by Community Regeneration Officers)	35
Litter bins - improvement or replacement	7
Invasive Plant Species Officer - contribution to salary	15
Parks to be allocated to cemeteries, parks east and parks west	40
Living Environment Local Environmental Quality Partnership	10
Community Payback (graffiti removal, community clean-ups)	10
Allotment Strategy Implementation	5
Maintenance budget for community schemes	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>

## 5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The empowerment aspect of the community partnership allocation is especially important for minority groups in the community as they often feel less empowered due to their particular circumstances. Further, the work undertaken in improving seating, pathways and reducing anti-social behaviour has a greater positive impact on elderly and disabled people in the community. Finally, the Community Payback involvement in dealing with graffiti supports the swift removal of graffiti that may contain discriminatory, extremist or hate crime phrases.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications other than those referred to in Section 4 above. The Community Schemes budget will be considered within the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2015/16.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and there are no consultation responses that have not been reflected within the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the suggested allocation of the Community Schemes budget set out in paragraph 4.5.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 In order allocate resources to the maintenance of community schemes.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 The allocation of these funds is a Cabinet function  
Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000

Author: Rob Hartshorn: Head of Public Protection  
Consultees: Sandra Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive  
Councillor Dave Poole, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure  
Councillor Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration  
Councillor Tom Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways  
Terry Shaw, Head of Engineering Services  
Pauline Elliott, Head of Regeneration and Planning  
Mark S Williams, Head of Community & Leisure Services  
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager  
Sian Phillips, HR Manager  
Gail Williams, Interim Monitoring Officer  
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)  
Allan Dallimore, Team Leader, Urban Renewal  
Tina McMahon, Community Regeneration Manager  
Marcus Lloyd, Highways Operations Group Manager  
Tony White, Waste Strategy and Operations Manager  
Paul Cooke, Team Leader – Sustainable Development  
Lyndon Ross, Senior Environmental Health Officer  
Phil Griffiths, Principal Planner, Countryside  
Derek Price, Parks and Outdoor Facilities Manager

Background Papers:  
Cabinet Report: 'Care Home Fees Review' – 18th June 2013