

## **Cultivating Resilient Communities**

### **2015/16 Small Grants Scheme Pilot**

#### **Information and Guidance for Councillors as Community Connectors**

##### **Pilot Aim**

To build community resilience and enable community networks to have a more active role in delivering support and services which meet their local needs.

This pilot creates an opportunity for *Councillors as Community Connectors* to build capacity and increase connections within their communities through the development of ideas, projects, events or initiatives which will deliver a sustainable or permanent change to the way people support themselves and others in the community.

For those projects which identify a need for financial support there will be an opportunity to bid for a Community Small Grant.

##### **Background: Resilient Communities**

Cambridgeshire County Council has a vision for a stronger future for our communities where strengths are recognised and where people can easily find the information and advice they need to be happy and healthy citizens. Cambridgeshire will be a place where people are part of well-networked communities, and where they get the right help to play an active role within their neighbourhoods.

*In 5 years' time the public sector will look very different with fewer services delivered directly; we need to prepare for that.* Rising demand together with significantly reduced resources makes redesigning public services imperative. Put simply, the public sector cannot continue delivering services in the way that it does now.

*Local people have an active role to play in creating better outcomes for themselves and for others in their community, and they themselves will be the starting point for tackling emerging issues.* There is a growing body of research and evidence to show that local community-based support can be more effective in supporting some vulnerable people – and better at preventing some of the crises which necessitate costly Council services.

##### **Role of the 'Councillors as Community Connectors'**

Councillors on the first cohort of this programme will initiate discussions in their communities to explore how they might work together to build a more resilient community which is able to create better outcomes for themselves.

It is anticipated that Councillors will want to facilitate discussions to include identification of their own local priorities, how they can support the Council's outcomes and enablers, and develop their own 'Cultivating Resilience Communities' approach to address one or more of those priorities. This community led activity is not limited to one set approach and communities are encouraged to be creative in designing something that works well for them and builds on their strengths. It might take the form of shared community action, community activity, new initiative, or one or more local events.

A lot of effective community action requires only the time, available resources, energy and willingness to participate by local volunteers. If however the community identifies a need for funding to support their new approach and their proposal meets the small grant criteria, they can submit a bid to the 2015/16 Community Small Grant scheme.



### **Community Small Grant Application Criteria**

To be eligible to apply for a Community Small Grant, each application will need to demonstrate how their proposed activity will:

1. Provide sustainable or permanent improvement to the way people support themselves and others.
2. Result in short, medium or long-term financial savings to Council services.
3. Involve a growing number of people, community groups and businesses working together.
4. Support one or more of the following outcomes –
  - Older people live well independently
  - People with disabilities live well independently
  - People at risk of harm are kept safe
  - People lead a healthy lifestyle
  - Children and young people reach their potential in settings and schools
  - The Cambridgeshire economy prospers to the benefit of all Cambridgeshire residents
  - People live in a safe environment
5. Provide added value to the community
6. Include match funding or additional funding to that applied for via Small Grants scheme (including in kind/volunteer support).
7. Be deliverable in the timeframe.
8. Applications will also be asked to include full financial breakdown of project costs and anticipated income.

### **Community Small Grant key information**

The total amount available for this pilot is £20k. Each of the 18 communities served by this first cohort of *Councillors as Connectors* will be able to submit one bid per community. Applications will be submitted by community groups, not individual Councillors and any resulting grant payments made to the applying community group.

The grant will be used to set up or aid delivery of a new community led approach. It is not intended for existing projects but could be used to significantly build on and further develop what is already in place.

Whilst applications are not restricted to a maximum amount, it is expected that final consideration of all the applications will take into account a desire to support a wide range of community groups and their proposed initiatives. There is no guarantee that every application will result in funding being awarded or to the full level requested.

Consideration for funding will be based on how the project meets the stated small grant criteria. Final decision will be made by a Small Grant Application panel convened for this purpose made up of a CCC Director/Chair of Community Resilience Programme Board, the Small Grant budget holder and officer from Community Engagement team.

100% of the grant will be paid on award and will include a 'Guarantee Against Loss', i.e. any underspend or monies not to be used to deliver the agreed project must be returned to the County Council or shortly after 31 December 2016

An important part of this pilot is to evaluate the approach taken with this small grant scheme. Councillors will be asked to report back on progress as part of the *Councillors as Community Connectors* programme.

Each funded community project applicant will need to prepare an interim report on project progress in spring/summer 2016 and an end of project/project update report in December 2016. A template will be

provided for this purpose and will include a full financial breakdown, confirmation of the outcome of activity, community involvement figures and allow use of any pictures or films capturing the activity. This feedback will be used to inform future work.

### **Timescales**

Discussion and development	October 2015-December 2015
Small Grants application deadline	<b>15 January 2016.</b>
Panel decision on award	by end January 2016
Small grant payments	from end of January 2016.

Whilst some projects will be long term, it is anticipated the small grant funding will be used to kick start and develop projects, with activity taking place between January and December 2016. It is recommended that a full project plan will be in place by end of March 2016 at the latest.

### **How to apply**

Application forms will be made available via the Councillors as Community Connectors

All forms to be returned by email to Joanne.Gray@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by post to SBC Cambridgeshire County Council, PO Box 450, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6ZR by 5pm at the latest on 15 January 2016

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