

**CABINET - 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

**BIG COMMUNITY FUND – ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR DECEMBER APPRAISAL ROUND & ADDITIONAL MEMBERS FOR APPRAISAL PANEL**

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For Decision

**This report supports the Strong, Active and Involved Communities priority in the Community Plan.**

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Mrs Pat Bosley

**Head of Service** Head of Community Development - Lesley Bowles

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**Recommendation:** It be RESOLVED that:

- a) The draft appraisals from the 21 December Appraisal Panel be agreed
- b) The following Members should be added to the Big Community Fund Members Appraisal Panel:

Cllr Mrs Angela George

Cllr Mrs Faye Parkin

Cllr Simon Raikes

Cllr Mrs Janet Sargeant

Cllr Roderick Hogarth

Cllr Lawrence Ball

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**Background**

- 1 It was resolved by Cabinet on 21 July 2011 that funding be allocated to a new grant scheme entitled the Big Community Fund.
- 2 The Big Community Fund was set up to provide a source of funding to enable Members to work with their local communities to improve the area.

- 3 A panel of Members was invited and trained to make recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing about the allocation of grants. 16 Members were trained, with a minimum of 5 trained Members forming each Panel.

### **Introduction**

- 4 After three Big Community Fund bidding rounds, a total of 12 applications have been funded.
- 5 The December Appraisal Panel, on 21 December 2011, was inquorate due to indisposition at the last minute of one of the Members due to sit on the Panel. The four Members present, Cllrs Mrs Cook, Davison, Edwards-Winser and London, appraised the six applications received and made draft recommendations.
- 6 Recommendations made at an inquorate meeting cannot be ratified by a Portfolio Holder Agreement, and instead must be agreed by Cabinet decision. The six applications received, from Fawkham & West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks Kippington, Eynsford (2), Hextable and Seal & Weald wards, are set out at Appendix A. The Decision forms, with draft recommendations from the Appraisal Panel, are set out at Appendix B. Members are asked to agree the draft recommendations.
- 7 A seventh application, from Crockenhill & Well Hill ward, was received. This application is not signed as there is no ward Member due to the death of the Member earlier this month. This application was also appraised by the Members present and Cabinet are asked to agree this application. The application is included at Appendix A and the Decision form with draft recommendation is included at Appendix B.
- 8 As the number of completed applications received rises with the popularity of the Scheme, it has become more difficult to find a quorum for the Appraisal Panel from the pool of 16 trained Members. This is due to Member availability and Members' interests in applications.
- 9 It is proposed to increase the number of trained Members available for the Appraisal Panel. Six Members who recently attended a training session on making applications to the scheme have indicated their interest in training for the Panel.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

- 7 There are no financial implications to this report.

#### Non financial Resources

- 8 An increase in the number of Members available for the Appraisal Panel will reduce officer time in recruiting for the Panel each month.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 9 The Scheme's aims ensure that each grant will positively address local needs, ensuring a good impact on the community.
- 10 Additional trained Members will ensure that no Appraisal Panel is cancelled due to a lack of quorum for that meeting, with a possible delay to any community project.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

- 11 The scheme is in accordance with the Council's overall Grant-Making Code of Practice.

Sustainability Checklist

- 12 A sustainability checklist was completed for the Cabinet report of 21 July 2011.

**13 Risk Assessment Statement**

<b>RISK</b>	<b>MITIGATION</b>	<b>RESIDUAL RISK</b>
Community projects may be delayed if an Appraisal Panel is cancelled due to lack of available Members	Additional trained Members increases the pool of Members available to Appraisal Panel	Lower risk of cancelling an Appraisal Panel and delaying community projects

**Sources of Information:** Big Community Fund Guidelines and Application Form  
Sevenoaks District Council Code of Practice for grant-making

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**COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES DIRECTOR  
KRISTEN PATERSON**

