
Report To:	Regeneration Committee	Date: 28th October 2010
Report By:	Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment	Report No: R169/10/AF/AF
Contact Officer:	Aubrey Fawcett	Contact No: 01475 712762
Subject:	Community Facilities Fund	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund of £750,000, which was approved in February 2010.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee on 17th August 2010 agreed that the arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund of £750,000, which was approved in February 2010, be submitted to the Regeneration Committee for consideration and approval.
- 2.2 Details of the proposed arrangements are set out in para 5.2 and the detailed proposed use of the fund is outlined in para. 5.3.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to: -
- (a) Approve the arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund of £750,000, as outlined in 5.2;
 - (b) Approve the proposed uses as outlined in para 5.3;
 - (c) Approve the criteria outlined in para. 5.4; and,
 - (d) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment to develop the ranking methodology and weightings taking cognisance of the criteria outlined in para 5.4 to assist with prioritising projects.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This £750,000 Fund was established at full Council in February 2010 to support the development of community facilities across Inverclyde.
- 4.2 A further report was submitted to Policy and Resources on the 17th August to seek Committee approval for the incorporation of the Corporate Area Renewal Strategy Group (the CARS Group) into the SOA (2) Social Regeneration and Area Renewal Group to reflect changes arising out of the restructuring of council services. Approval was given at this Committee for
1. The SOA (2) Group takes on responsibility for:
 - a. Overseeing and reporting on progress of the implementation of the Area Renewal Fund; and,
 - b. Consultation with the Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment on Area Renewal Fund proposals, which should be in line with the Council's corporate priorities, prior to submission to the Regeneration Committee for consideration and final approval.
 2. The arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund of £750,000, which was approved in February 2010, will be the subject of a separate report to the Regeneration Committee.
- 4.3 This report seeks approval for the arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Due to the nature of the fund it is intended to make the application process as straightforward and streamlined as possible. The details are outlined below.
- 5.2 The proposed arrangements include:
1. Applications will be welcomed from local community, voluntary and third sector organisations.
 2. Programme for submission of applications: Date for expressions of interest by 1 February 2011, with formal bids required by 1 May 2011, and decisions by 1 September 2011. Depending on availability of funding a second round within the same timescales in 2012 is proposed.
 3. Applications will be submitted through the form of a formal proposal with an accompanying letter identifying the scope and details of the project, a robust and sustainable business plan and details of match funding to the Corporate Director Regeneration and Environment, who will submit the request following consultation with the SOA 2 Group to Committee for consideration.
 4. Funding applications will be limited up to a maximum of 75% of total project costs.
 5. Applicants will be required to demonstrate the availability and extent of external match funding.
 6. Successful applicants will be required to submit details of all costs incurred and secure tenders adopting current and appropriate procurement processes.
 7. Provide progress/monitoring reports over the duration/life cycle of the project.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the fund be used to assist community groups to develop:
- community facilities
 - play and recreational facilities
 - community allotments
 - other facilities which contribute to the well being of the local community.
- 5.4 In order to assess and prioritise applications the following criteria is proposed:
1. Community benefit resulting over duration/life of project.
 2. The need for the facilities, this would include an assessment of the extent of existing provision within the particular geographical area or easy travelling distance of it.

3. The extent to which the proposal supports the Council's area renewal strategy.
4. Extent of external funding levered into project.
5. Value for money.
6. Robustness of the business plan.
7. Feasibility of the proposals.
8. Environmental sustainability of the proposals.
9. Accessibility and equality aspects of the proposals.
10. Ability to meet all statutory and regulatory obligations

5.5 It is proposed that the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Environment be given delegated authority to develop the ranking methodology and weightings taking cognisance of the above criteria.

5.6 The Community Facilities Fund will be promoted through press releases and information on the Fund will be put on the Council's web site as is the case for Grants to Voluntary Organisations. Notices will be made in the local media and web site regarding closing date for applications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 **Legal:** These will be considered as part of application process.

6.2 **Human Resources:** These will be considered as part of application process.

6.3 **Equality and Diversity:** These will be considered as part of application process.

6.4 Finance:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	Community Facilities Fund	2011/12 onwards	none		

Annual Recurring Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a					

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation will be undertaken as part of the application process.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The proposed arrangements for administration and disbursement of the Community Facilities Fund identified above will assist in ensuring maximum impact of the use of public funds in delivering new/upgraded community facilities in Inverclyde whilst empowering local groups to bring forward proposals which will enhance provision of accommodation and services locally.