

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE

**Date of Meeting: Executive – 9 October 2018
Council – 16 October 2018**

Report of: Programme Manager - Communities

**Title: Neighbourhood portion of Community Infra-Structure Levy/ Grants
Roots Grants recommendations October 2018**

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.2 A Community and arts grants review is currently taking place: all Council grant giving is part of this review including the Neighbourhood Community Infra-Structure Levy (CIL) funding. The recommendations from the review will be considered by members through the committee process in January 2019. In the meantime the Council continues to respond to request from community and arts groups for grants within existing arrangements.

1.3 This report recommends awards to be made to two community organisations in this fifth round of the Neighbourhood Community Infra-Structure Levy (CIL) /Grass Roots Grants funding

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That Council approves the recommendation made by the Grass Roots Grants Panel which met on the 4 September 2018, to support the following grant applications:

(For more information about these projects see section 8)

1. **The Club, Pow's Place** Locarno Road St Thomas. Mental health support project – funding towards new heating system and ramps to ensure building is accessible. £10,000
2. **Friends of Merrivale Park** - St Thomas Community Association - Improving park with new play equipment, goal posts and picnic bench. £10,000

3. Reasons for the recommendations:

3.1 At the People Scrutiny Committee held on 2 June 2016, and Council on 26 July 2016 it was agreed that the Council would welcome recommendations from the Grass Roots Grants Panel in relation to applications for funding from the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infra-Structure Levy (CIL). Following a member decision in April 2018 the panel membership has been revised to ensure more member involvement. In this fifth round of the grass roots grant process the panel had two elected members present (and one apology) and two representatives from Exeter Community Forum. This is the fifth round in this process.

4. What are the resource implications including non- financial resources:

- 4.1 It is estimated that the neighbourhood portion of the total CIL receipts over the next 10 years will be approximately £3.75 million. Executive approved the ring fencing of these funds at the 10 February 2015 meeting. The CIL regulations do not provide for borrowing to be undertaken against CIL receipts, and so sufficient CIL receipts must have accumulated before projects can be funded.
- 4.2 At 15% of total CIL receipts, the neighbourhood portion of CIL receipts, currently equates to approximately **£1,460,309** (September 2018). A total of **£368,271** has been awarded to date.

5. Section 151 Officer Comments:

- 5.1 The Section 151 Officer notes the proposals and will work with the Programme Manager – Communities to ensure that the spend of the Neighbourhood portion of the CIL is appropriately administered and accounted for, bearing in mind the decision-making procedures put in place and the Council's ultimate retention of accountability.
- 5.2 Members should be aware that supporting some applications, particularly buildings, may cause the organisations involved further financial challenges, maintaining and running the buildings in the future and members should be satisfied that appropriate business plans are in place and that there is no expectation of future financial support from the Council towards the running costs of the building in question.

6. What are the legal aspects?

- 6.1 None identified

7. Monitoring Officer Comments

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring officer.

8. Report Details:

8.1 **Grass Roots Grants** – A Community and arts grants review is currently taking place: all Council grant giving is part of this review including the Neighbourhood Community Infra-Structure Levy (CIL) funding. The recommendations from the review will be considered by members through the committee process in January 2019. In the meantime the Council continues to respond to request from community and arts groups for grants within existing arrangement

This is the fifth round of the Neighbourhood CIL/Grass Roots Grants process which focuses on community buildings and supporting community action. This includes the setting up or running a project that runs over a period of time or towards buildings or equipment. Groups were advised that they would be able to apply for up to £10,000 to support building costs, or alternatively groups could apply for funding to support community action.

Three applications were received in the latest round, the panel met on 4 September 2018 to assess the applications against the evaluation criteria, the panel recommended supporting two of the applications at this stage. One of the applicants has been advised that the application did not fulfill the criteria as it did not demonstrate significant community consultation and it was at risk of duplicating other work in the city.

	Applications supported by panel	Project/Initiative	Funding from Grass Roots Grants	Total cost of project
1.	The Club Pow's Place Locarno Road St Thomas	Mental health support project – funding towards new heating system and ramps to ensure building is accessible. (City Council owned building)	£10,000	£10,000
2.	Friends of Merrivale Park - St Thomas Community Association	Improving park with new play equipment, goal posts and picnic bench. (City Council park)	£10,000	£25,749.93
Total recommended				£20,000

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan

- 9.1 Supporting community developments helps us to achieve the Corporate Plan objective of Supporting Exeter's Communities – *"Communities in Exeter know best what facilities are needed in their areas and where investment should be prioritised. We recognise that community and voluntary groups have an important role to play in helping us to shape and deliver services in new ways. We will continue to provide support to the community and voluntary sector to achieve a range of positive outcomes for our communities through co-design and co-delivery"*.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

- 10.1 Successful applicants will need to provide a monitoring report on their project and will have a peer visit to check the process and outputs/outcomes of the work.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

- 1.1 Supporting the capacity of community organisations to take initiatives, has the potential to support a wide range of groups across the city and thereby address issues such as equality and diversity, health and wellbeing.

12. Are there any other options?

- 12.1 No.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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