



TITLE OF CONSULTATION: RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME 2022/23

OFFICER REQUESTING: MARGARET WALLACE
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR – PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 7 JUNE 2022

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 In February, Council amended the purpose of the proposed capital allocation to the Milton Rooms to “Projects in Ryedale Rural Communities”. This would have been funded from reserves. As the proposal here includes revenue and capital costs, and will usually be allocated to other organisations as revenue grants, the recommendation that has been approved by group leaders now agrees that the funding can now be used for both types of costs rather than just capital. Therefore the capital budget will reduce by up to £160k and the revenue budget increase by the same amount, although there is no overall impact on the funding required by Council. The proposal did not come with the funding criteria, so officers have now drafted the Rural Community grants funding criteria and appraisal documents attached (Appendix A, B).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The criteria and appraisal process for the Rural Community Grant Scheme are agreed.
- (ii) That the allocation of capital budget agreed at Full Council in February 2022 to the Rural Community Grants Schemes is amended to enable it to be allocated to both capital and revenue projects.
- (iii) That delegated authority is given to Community Officers to appraise rural grants in line with the grant criteria and approve applications in consultation with local elected members.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 At Council on 24 February 2022 elected members proposed and approved a financial allocation of £160,000 for a Rural Communities Grant Scheme.

3.2 Officers have now drafted the rural community grant scheme criteria for 2022/23 and allocation of funding in consultation with the elected members who proposed and seconded the motion. (Appendix A)

3.3 **Definition of a Rural Community:** Applications will be considered for projects taking place in rural communities across Ryedale. The government’s Rural Urban Classification defines areas as rural if they fall outside of settlements with more than 10,000 resident population, however this would categorise the entirety of the Ryedale District as rural. To further ensure that funding is allocated to sparsely populated areas,

applications will therefore only be accepted from Parishes with a population under 1500.

3.4 To ensure funding is distributed equally to rural communities, each parish with a population under 1500 has been allocated £1,467 in grant funding. Projects within parishes can apply individually for their allocation of £1,467, or a collaborative application can be submitted by numerous parishes for up to the total funding allocated to the ward. Allocated funding may be redistributed in the event that a parish or ward receives an insufficient number of applications.

3.5 Officers have drafted the funding appraisal document which align to the 11 rural priorities outlined in the funding criteria. The projects considered by the fund can be varied and diverse but must be able to show that they make a positive contribution to at least one of the rural priorities as follows:

- Supporting people to resolve existing and emerging community issues, circumstances, and priorities in their locality
- Building rural community resilience
- Creating a safe place to live
- Developing an innovative and replicable project
- Improving the economic or social resilience of a rural community
- Reducing isolation for people living in rural areas by improving service provision
- Creating Dementia Friendly communities
- Creating a self-sufficient rural community that is fit for the future
- Rural tourism development
- Improving rural IT and Broadband connection
- Tackling climate change

3.6 Officers have drafted the rural community grants scheme appraisal criteria which provides a scoring matrix to assess the merit of a grant application. The assessing officer will score each question against the application and approve in consultation with the local elected members.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 There is a significant risk that if the criteria are not approved the agreed allocation of funding will not be spend within the financial year 2022/23.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

There is a significant risk that if the criteria are not approved the agreed allocation of funding will not be spend within the financial year 2022/23

b) Legal

N/A

c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)

The grant scheme will be appraised by Community Team Officers. An officer from the Economic Development team will be responsible for the administration and recording of the grants in Civica system to ensure transparency if audited.

6.0 MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

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| 1.2 | Group Leaders to be advised that Urgency Powers have been invoked to agree the criteria and to outline the process for the distribution of the Rural Community Grant funding. This will ensure that the grant offers, following appraisal of the officers and subsequent payments can be made to the applicants within the short framework of the deadline for applications of 21 November 2022. |
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7.0 CONSULTATION RECORD

According to the Constitution, under urgency powers, decisions usually taken by the Council and its committees are taken by the CEO following consultation with the appropriate elected members.

The appropriate elected members are:

- The Leader of the Council
- The Chair of the appropriate committee, for matters relating to that specific committee¹
- Relevant Ward member(s), if any, for matters of particular relevance to that ward²

Name of Consultee	Cllr D Keal
Proposal advised in an email dated 27 May 2022. Advised that if no formal response received by 9.00am on 1 June 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.	
Date consultation completed	1 June 2022

Name of Consultee	Cllr S Arnold
Proposal advised in an email dated 27 May 2022. Advised that if no formal response received by 9.00am on 1 June 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.	
Date consultation completed	1 June 2022

Name of Consultee	Cllr L Burr
Proposal advised in an email dated 27 May 2022. Advised that if no formal response received by 9.00am on 1 June 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.	
Date consultation completed	1 June 2022

Name of Consultee	Cllr K Duncan
Proposal advised in an email dated 27 May 2022. Advised that if no formal response received by 9.00am on 1 June 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.	
Date consultation completed	1 June 2022

Name of Consultee	Cllr J Frank
Proposal advised in an email dated 27 May 2022. Advised that if no formal response	

¹ "Chairman of the appropriate Committee" refers to committee specific matters and does not mean that all Committee Chairs will be consulted on everything

² "Relevant Ward Member(s), if any" refers to ward specific matters and does not mean that all Members will be consulted on everything

received by 9.00am on 1 June 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.

Date consultation completed	1 June 2022
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Name of Consultee	Cllr M Potter
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Proposal advised in an email dated 27 May 2022. Advised that if no formal response received by 9.00am on 1 June 2022, the request would be deemed 'Approved'. No formal response received.

Date consultation completed	1 June 2022
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8.0 DECISION

Decision of the Acting CEO based on consultation	To be completed after consultation
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Proposal approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Potter', is written over the signature line of the decision table.