

CAPITAL FUND FOR PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines details of the way in which this initiative could be progressed, together with its financial implications.
- 1.2 Such a fund would be in line with the well-being power now promoted by Central Government through the Local Government Act 2000.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the budget setting meeting of full Council on 23rd January, 2001, Members agreed that a report be brought back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for Members' consideration, detailing the principle of setting up some capital fund arrangement, of say £20,000 per annum, which would allow for parish councils to make bids for projects within their areas, which deal with Crime and Disorder issues such as youth nuisance, vandalism, etc.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 To progress this matter and establish an operational fund from 2001/2002, it is suggested that the following procedure apply:-
- 3.2 Eligible Applicants
 - all parish and town councils within Rochford District
- 3.3 Application Details
 - all applications to include a description of the scheme, together with details of its total costs. Information supplied should also include a copy of the parish or town council minute authorising the application, details of the problems/issues to be addressed, together with supporting information, including any facts/analysis available which support the action proposed; details of any consultation carried out with the local community, details of the amount of funding committed to the project by the parish/town council and the amount requested from the District Council, and also details of any other grant funding

sought. Information should also be supplied on how the success of the project is to be monitored.

3.4 District Council Criteria

- all grant applications to be considered in terms of addressing specific crime and disorder issues and meeting the aims of the District Council's own Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy, the maximum level of District Council funding to be 50%
- preference to be given to applications which demonstrate other sources of funding in addition to that of the parish/town councils and District Council
- all applications to be submitted by 28 September for consideration by Council in the November/December cycle.

3.5 Responsible Committee

It is proposed that in the first instance, applications would be considered by the Community Safety Sub Committee, although when a new committee structure is implemented, this would need to change.

3.6 Financial Implications

At the budget making Council meeting, a capital sum of £20,000 per annum was suggested for this fund, which over the 3 year budgetary period would equate to £60,000. The capital programme over the 3 year period is already overdrawn by around £400,000 at the end of 2003/2004. In addition, Members have committed the first £150,000 of any new usable capital receipts to support housing schemes. Consequently, Members might like to consider whether such an extended funding commitment should be given at this stage. It may be worthwhile to consider piloting the scheme for 2001/2002 and seeing how successful it is. Depending on the perceived demand and volume of grant applications, Members could then consider whether it would be appropriate to develop a rolling programme of funding over a 3 year period. At this stage, £20,000 has been included in the capital programme for 2001/2002.

4 **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The development of a successful programme of parish/town council schemes which complement the Council's Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy offers the potential to make a positive contribution in this area.

5 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

-
- 5.1 Such schemes may also have a positive environmental impact.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 See the financial implications outlined above. Also, there would be officer time involved in the administration and processing of all grant applications, plus the post implementation inspection and monitoring. Whilst much would depend upon the volume of applications received, a rough estimate of officer time would be between 4 to 6 weeks if the initiative was reasonably successful. Additional officer time may also be required to assist parish/town council in the development of schemes. There would too be Member involvement in the grant decision making process.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Such an initiative would fall within the new well-being power promoted by Central Government under the Local Government Act 2000.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All parish/town councils would have the opportunity to apply.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that subject to Member consideration and comments, the detailed operation of the Parish/Town Council Grant Scheme be as outlined above, to be trialed initially for 1 year only, 2001/2002.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

For further information please contact Paul Warren on:-

Tel:- 01702 318199

E-Mail:- paul.warren@rochford.gov.uk