

CABINET

17th November 2020

BIDS FOR GARDEN VILLAGE CAPACITY AND CULTURE RECOVERY FUNDS

Report of the Strategic Director for Places

Strategic Aim:	Delivering sustainable development	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP//091020	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr G Brown, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Penny Sharp, Interim Strategic Director for Places	01572 758160 psharp@rutland.gov.uk
	Robert Clayton, Head of Culture & Registration	01572 758435 rclayton@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- Notes that an application has been submitted for **£563,000** from the Garden Communities Capacity Funding programme for 2020/2021. Should the funding bid prove successful Cabinet approval will be sought to accept any grant offer.
- Approves acceptance of the offer of a grant of **£132,100**, and the standard terms and conditions specified, from the Culture Recovery Fund administered by Arts Council England to support the Council's heritage services.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- To note the submission of an application for **£563,000** to the Garden Communities Capacity Funding programme for 2020/2021. If the funding bid is successful, Cabinet approval will be sought to accept any grant offer.
- To approve the acceptance of an offer of a grant of **£132,100**, and the standard terms and conditions specified, from the Culture Recovery Fund administered by Arts Council England to support the Council's heritage services.

2 FUNDING APPLICATION FOR GARDEN COMMUNITIES CAPACITY FUNDING PROGRAMME 2020/21

2.1 In 2019/20, St George's Garden Village was successfully included in the Government's Garden Communities Programme. The Garden Communities Programme was launched in late 2018 with the aim of promoting housing delivery and high quality communities with the following characteristics:

- a purpose built new settlement, or large extension to an existing town
- a community with a clear identity and attractive environment
- a mix of homes, including affordable and self-build
- planned by local authorities or private sector in consultation with the local community

As well as building new homes, the communities should develop:

- job opportunities
- attractive green space and public realm areas
- transport infrastructure, including roads, buses and cycle routes
- community infrastructure, schools, community and health centres
- a plan for long-term stewardship of community assets

2.2 The Garden Communities programme is administered by Homes England on behalf of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Designated Garden Communities had the opportunity for bid for Capacity Funding to support their development. In 2019/20, Rutland County Council secured £150k garden capacity funding as a newly designated Garden Village.

2.3 On 24th July 2020, Homes England announced a further round of Garden Communities Capacity Funding for 2020/21, total value circa £9m. Designated garden communities were invited to submit bids by 4th September 2020.

2.4 Due to the tight timescales the Council, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, submitted a bid for a total of **£563,000**. The bid is intended to support engagement and stakeholder involvement in the design and planning of St George's garden village and determining the planning application. All bidders have been advised that the programme is likely to be significantly over subscribed and are unlikely to secure the full amount of funding required.

2.5 Homes England will be assessing bids against the following criteria:

- Number of homes to be delivered
- Positive progress towards meeting key milestones identified for delivery of the garden village or town and delivery of housing numbers
- Effective expenditure of previous capacity funding awards to progress the garden village or town project towards delivery
- Implementation of measures to secure garden community quality and innovation outcomes
- Effective project planning for delivery activities proposed in 2020-21 – demonstrating the added value that capacity funding will provide

2.6 Homes England has indicated that it is aiming to evaluate and award successful funding bids by the end of December 2020. Funding will be provided as a s31

grant for 2020/21. Cabinet approval will be sought to accept any award should the Council prove successful in its bid for Garden Communities funding.

3 CULTURE RECOVERY FUND AWARD

- 3.1** The Culture Recovery Fund was announced by Government on 11th August, with the first of two funding rounds closing on 21st August, and the second on 4th September. The fund was designed for cultural organisations, including Local Authorities, negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Bids had to be applied for by each organisation requesting support, and include a financial breakdown of individual circumstances. Due to the very short lead time, a bid was submitted following discussions with the Portfolio Holder for Culture and the Director for Places. The funding is required to be used to support the service provision of the grantee, not for distribution to other organisations.
- 3.2** The Council's heritage service has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with 90% of weddings and all paid-for hire event cancelled over the peak summer season. With the Museum and Castle being closed from March, no retail income has been generated, and as a result the service has been unable to make any significant contribution to the annual income target.
- 3.3** The funding bid aimed to address the shortfall in income, and enable work to develop a sustainable operation for future years. Work will include a review of the business model and operational arrangements to ensure the service has the right skills and diversification to be resilient and sustainable longer term. Work will help to safeguard the collections, and drive positive economic impacts for the county.
- 3.4** On 12th October, Arts Council England announced that Rutland County Council's bid had been accepted. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the acceptance of the grant, along with the associated standard Arts Council grant conditions, attached as Appendix A. The main conditions to note are:
- 3.4.1** Pay Restraint Requirement (clause 5.1). The terms of the grant require senior staff (those earning over £100,000 per annum) to exercise pay restraint by foregoing any pay increases for 18 months, and for those earning over £150,000 to take a 10% pay cut. Arts Council have clarified this requirement only applies at the service level, not across the Council. No staff within the Culture & Registration service are remunerated at this level.
- 3.4.2** Diversity Commitment (clause 5.2). The terms require the organisation to commit to increase diversity of the organisation and its audience. The development work noted in 3.3 will include work to increase and diversify the audience of the heritage service. The Council has a strong Equality and Diversity Steering Group which ensures the Council implements its Equality and Diversity Statement (2020-2023).
- 3.4.3** Environmental Commitment (clause 5.3). The terms require the organisation to commit to progress towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Council agreed a Climate Change Action Motion at Rutland's Full Council Meeting on Monday 14 October 2019, which included this commitment.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1** The funding bids have been discussed with the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Portfolio Holder for Culture, the Strategic Directors for Resources and

Places, and the Deputy Director Corporate Governance.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 Cabinet is asked to note the position re the Garden Communities Capacity Funding. There is no decision to be made yet.
- 5.2 If the offer of the Culture Recovery Fund grant is not accepted, there will be a significant reduction in capacity to build a sustainable model for the future operation of the Council's heritage services. Opportunities to bid for funds which do not require any match funding are rare.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The grant will fund development works (as set out in 3.3). There are no implications on the Council's finances if the funding is accepted. If the funding is not accepted, then a request could be made to fund this from General Funds creating a budget pressure.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 When the Council receives grant funding from Government or other sources, then acceptance of the terms of conditions is the responsibility of Cabinet. The terms and conditions for the Culture Recovery Fund are attached to this report as Appendix A.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant risks/issues were found. A copy of the DPIA can be obtained from Robert Clayton, Head of Culture & Registration.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Questionnaire has been completed, which has indicated that submitting a Garden Communities Capacity Fund bid and accepting a Culture Recovery Fund grant will have no new impact on equality and diversity issues. As such, a full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed.

10 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 No community safety implications have been identified from the submission of the Garden Communities Capacity Fund bid or acceptance of the Culture Recovery Fund grant.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 No health and wellbeing implications have been identified from the submission of the Garden Communities Capacity Fund bid or acceptance of the Culture Recovery Fund grant.

12 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Noting the submission of an application for **£563,000** to the Garden Communities

Capacity Funding programme for 2020/201.

- 12.2 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the acceptance of an offer of a grant of **£132,100**, and the standard terms and conditions specified, from the Culture Recovery Fund administered by Arts Council England, which will be used to support the Council's heritage services.

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13.1 There are no additional background papers to the report

14 APPENDICES

- 14.1 Appendix A – Arts Council England Standard Terms & Conditions for Grants

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.