

Overview and Scrutiny Board

20 December 2011

Big Society Fund 2011/12

Recommendation:

The Board is asked to:

1. Note the background and current position in relation to the allocation of the Fund
2. Consider the options for scrutinising the impact of the Fund in 2012/13

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 16th June 2011, Cabinet agreed to establish a Big Society Fund of £125,000. At the same meeting, Cabinet adopted the Big Society Vision and Aspirations – attached as Appendix One.
- 1.2 In July 2011, the Fund was launched and publicised. Information about the application process, and criteria is attached as Appendix Two. A Closing Date of 16th September was given, by which time 76 applications had been received with requests to the value of £909,830.
- 1.3 On 29th September an Assessment Panel convened to consider the applications. This was made up of:

Mark Ryder	Head of Localities and Community Safety
Nick Gower Johnson	Localities and Partnerships Manager
Alistair Rigby	Localities and Communities Officer – North Warwickshire
Andrea Buckley	Localities and Communities Officer – Nuneaton & Bedworth
Hannah Cramp	Localities and Communities Officer – Rugby
Jane Coates	Localities and Communities Officer – Warwick
Amanda Wilson Patterson	Localities and Communities Officer - Stratford
Jo Giblin	Area Support Officer – North Warwickshire

- 1.4 The Panel considered each of the applications in line with the published Criteria and attributed a provisional score to each application.
- 1.5 Following this, those applications which scored comparatively highly were looked at in greater detail in order to identify the level of funding actually required (as opposed to requested) to meet the main purposes of the application.
- 1.6 It became apparent that the possibility of increasing the value of the fund should be explored. In view of the unpredicted and extensive response from community groups to the funding opportunity, it was considered that the Council would want to support as many as possible of those applications which had scored highly through the assessment process.
- 1.7 Following the Portfolio Holder's decision making session on 21st October 2011, it became apparent that, due to an unfortunate administrative error, an application from Shipton on Stour Town Council for £10,000 to support a new approach to community transport arrangements had not been considered by the Panel. Steps have been taken to rectify this and the Town Council has been informed that the Panel will be reconvened in order to consider the application in line with the published criteria.

2 Portfolio Holder decision making

- 2.1 Following the process described above, the Assessment Panel submitted its recommendations to the Strategic Director for Communities – Appendix Three.
- 2.2 The recommendations were endorsed by the Strategic Director who confirmed that the Fund would be increased by a sufficient amount to enable the recommendations of the Panel to be met (£230,050). These recommendations were then considered and endorsed by the Portfolio Holder on 21st October 2011, having been circulated in advance to all Councillors
- 2.3 Following the decision making session, Officers have:
 - a) Confirmed the outcome to each of the applicants
 - b) For unsuccessful applicants, signposted them to other sources of advice and support – notably the Area Teams and WCAVA
 - c) For successful applicants, formally offered the amount recommended by way of grant and ensured that appropriate conditions are attached which (without being over burdensome) will both ensure that the purposes of the application can be met and the Council's interests assured.

- d) Ensured (and this is of most relevance to those successful applications that relate to community library and youth centre take-over) that the approval of the grant is conditional upon all appropriate approvals being secured
 - e) As required (and at the request of the local Councillor) by the Portfolio Holder reviewed the scoring of the application in respect of Salford Priors Youth Club (Application B56, shown in Appendix Three). This was done with no change in scoring or recommendation resulting
- 2.4 Officers will now be working with colleagues to ensure that, as far as possible, monitoring arrangements for successful applicants who have received support from a variety of sources (for example the Libraries Capital Fund, and Area Committee funding) are as streamlined and joined-up as possible

3. Future arrangements

- 3.1 Whilst members of the Board are asked generally for their views on work done to date, it will be appreciated that it is far too early for Officers to assess the impact and effectiveness of the grants allocated.
- 3.2 Nevertheless views of Board members would be very welcome, in particular their suggestions for any future scrutiny of these or related matters.

Background Papers (Please list below, with electronic links where applicable)

Cabinet 16th June 2011 'The Big Society'
 Report to Portfolio Holder decision making session 21st October 2011

	Name	Contact details
Report Author	Nick Gower-Johnson	01926 412053 nickgower-johnson@warwickshire.gov.uk
Head of Service	Mark Ryder	01926 414129 markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty	01926 412514 monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Colin Hayfield	

Appendix One

BUILDING OUR BIG SOCIETY IN WARWICKSHIRE Vision and Aspirations

A Our Vision

'Our overall vision for the Big Society is to establish well-organised, compassionate and thriving communities and to enable an environment and working culture where it is easier for our communities to do things for themselves to address the issues that really matter to them

B Our Aspirations

1. Help communities to help themselves. We will:

- Encourage and support local communities to do things for themselves.
- Encourage volunteering and do everything we can to remove any red tape that may be a disincentive to people getting involved
- Ensure that local people have access to clear information about how local public services are run, how resources are used, who is responsible for what, and proposals for any changes to services.
- Work constructively with all of our partners rather than in isolation from them

2. Make sure that everyone has the opportunity to influence the decisions that affect them. We will:

- Support councillors at parish, town, district and county level to be community champions acting as the key local contact point and advocate for their local community
- Do everything that we can to devolve decision making as close as possible to local communities and we will help them make decisions about services in their area
- Continue to support and develop the Community Forums as a significant method of engaging with local people and enabling them to influence decisions that affect them
- Make sure that there is a common understanding of which decisions are open to influence and those that are not
- Use suitable methods to engage with our communities and ensure that we make the most of the opportunities offered by existing local networks and, groups and events

3. Give support where it is most needed. We will:

- Target our resources and support to individuals, families and communities most in need.

- In our priority neighbourhoods, aim to build community resilience, capacity and support, and early intervention.
- Support communities to run their own affairs, where communities have less immediate problems and greater capacity
- Work to make sure that all sections of the community are supported to play a full role in community life and that all voices are heard.

4. Help local people to shape and deliver public services. We will:

- Actively encourage the delivery of public services by voluntary and community organisations, parish and town councils, faith organisations, social enterprises, staff mutuels and co-operatives
- Make sure that the expressed views of customers and communities shape the services that that they receive
- Support the creation and expansion of mutuels, cooperatives, charities and social enterprises
- Engage fully with the private sector and facilitate their involvement in local communities
- Identify resources to help communities take responsibility for providing services in their communities

Appendix Two

BIG SOCIETY FUND 2011/12

Guidance Notes and Application Form

1. Introduction

£125,000 is available from the County Council's Big Society Fund to provide grants which directly contribute to the Council's Vision and four Aspirations for Building the Big Society in Warwickshire.

Our Vision

To establish well-organised, compassionate and thriving communities where local people can do the things they really think are important for themselves

Our Aspirations

1. Help communities to help themselves.
2. Make sure that everyone has the opportunity to influence the decisions that affect them.
3. Give support where it is most needed.
4. Help local people to shape and deliver public services.

Priority will be given to applications which directly support efforts being made by local people to take responsibility for the delivery of services to the public in their communities- for example running community libraries, community youth provision, and community transport.

Applications are invited by **12pm on Friday 16th September 2011**, and will be assessed against the criteria as set out in this document. Decisions will be made and communicated by 7th October 2011.

If you need help developing your project, making your application, and finding funding please contact Warwickshire Community And Voluntary Action (www.wcava.org.uk) or, in Stratford, Voluntary Action Stratford On Avon (www.vasa.org.uk). Alternatively, you can contact the County Council's Localities and Partnerships Team (via Nick Gower Johnson – contact details below).

If you require this information electronically, or in a different format, please contact: grants@warwickshire.govuk, or telephone Nick Gower Johnson on: 01926 412053, or download at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grants

2. Eligibility and scoring criteria

To be eligible to apply for the Big Society Fund, your project MUST:

- ✓ Provide lasting benefit
- ✓ Contribute directly to the Big Society Vision and Aspirations
- ✓ Meet all four scoring criteria as set out below
- ✓ Be looking to spend the grant within 12 months of its award
- ✓ Be led by a community or voluntary organisation, or a parish council (if organisation is yet to be established, appropriate temporary arrangements must be in place)
- ✓ Have the support of a Warwickshire County Councillor

There are no restrictions regarding either the amount to be requested or as regards capital or revenue. However, applicants should be aware of the limited funding available, and that this is a countywide 'pot'.

All applications will be scored out of a total of 20 points against the following criteria, based on the information you provide in your application form. Projects must meet all of the criteria.

Criteria	Eligible projects	Max. points
Helping communities to help themselves	Projects with strong community involvement and which increase the self-reliance of local communities	4
Giving people the opportunity to influence decisions	Projects which do one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a voice and/or meeting place for residents and community interests• Enable residents to play a role in running local services• Support the interface between public agencies and communities	3
Give support where it's most needed	Projects which benefit communities facing disadvantage or which would otherwise be losing provision	5
Help local people to deliver public services	Projects which enable communities to take over the management of services or assets from public agencies	8

3. Payment and Monitoring

Grants will generally be paid in advance of the delivery of your project.

Once it has spent the grant, your project will need to supply evidence that it has delivered the activity as described in the application form.

4. Application process

- a) Please fill in the application form carefully, with regard to the following:
- Please either type your application or use black ink.
 - Pay careful attention to the questions that are being asked, and regard to the scoring criteria. In order to score highly, your application will need to provide clear evidence that it meets the stated criteria.
 - The size of the boxes on the application form should be taken as a guide to the level of detail required. If there is insufficient space available please use a further sheet or, expand the boxes if an electronic copy is used.
 - Applicants should submit evidence of costs where appropriate - no other supporting evidence is necessary at this stage.
- b) Your application will need the support of a County Councillor. This could be your local Councillor or another Councillor with an involvement in the project. If you are not sure who to contact, please ask us for advice. We would advise you to discuss your proposals with the Councillor as early as possible.
- c) Please email your application to **grants@warwickshire.gov.uk**, or send to Nick Gower Johnson, Warwickshire County Council, PO Box 9, Shire Hall , Warwick CV34 4RR.
- d) We will ask your local Councillor to confirm support of your application.

Appendix Three

BIG SOCIETY FUND 2011/12

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Ref	Applicant	Area	County Councillor Support	Score	Amount Requested £	Suggested Funding £	Purpose of Application
A	Bids Scoring 18						
BS2	Baddesley Ensor Parish Council	NW	Cllr Sweet	18	6800	6000	To support establishment of community library
BS6	Friends of Dordon Library	NW	Cllr Sweet	18	11425	10000	To support establishment of community library
BS7	Hartshill Parish Council	NW	Cllr Fox	18	11000	10000	To support establishment of community library
BS13A	Keresley Village Community Library	NB	Cllr McCarney	18	25444	20000	To support establishment of community library
BS14	Manor Court Baptist Church	NB	Cllr Hicks	18	2666	2500	To enhance capacity of community to address debt issues
BS15	Nuneaton Caribbean Community Organisation	NB	Cllr Longden	18	7000	6500	To support establishment of community run youth and community centre
BS17	Wembrook Community Centre	NB	Cllr Tandy	18	14774	13500	To support establishment of community run youth and community centre

BS9	Water Orton Parish Community Library	NW	Cllr Lea	18	10000	9000	To support establishment of community library
BS12	Bedworth & Bulkington Neighbourhood Watch	NB	Cllr Chattaway	18	2000	2000	To support community based approach to tackling crime and asb
BS19	Bulkington Community Library	NB	Cllr Ross	18	3857	3750	To support establishment of community library
	Total of bids scoring 18				94,966	83,250	
B	Bids Scoring 17						
BS66	Kenilworth Centre	Warwick	Cllr Whitehouse	17	14500	11500	To support establishment of community run youth and community centre
BS23	Hill Street Youth and Community Assn	Rugby	Cllr Robbins /Walton	17	20000	14000	To support establishment of community run youth and community centre
BS21	Coventry & Warwickshire YMCA (Brownsover)	Rugby	Cllr Walton	17	45000	16500	To support establishment of community run youth and community centre
BS24	Dunchurch Parish Council	Rugby	Cllr Hazelton	17	10000	7500	To support establishment of community library

BS29	Wolston Parish Council	Rugby	Cllr Timms	17	5000	4000	To support local delivery of services for young people
BS36	Lighthorne Heath Youth Activities	Stratford	Cllr Williams	17	5000	4000	To support local delivery of services for young people
BS42	Studley Village hall Management Committee	Stratford	Cllr Rickhards	17	1150	1000	To support establishment of community library
BS65	Milan	Warwick	Cllr Naylor	17	3000	2500	To support community run day care services for older people
BS20	Binley Woods Parish Council	Rugby	Cllr Timms	17	7200	6000	To support establishment of community run youth and community centre
BS44	Southam Church and Community Project	Stratford	Cllr Appleton	17	10000	7500	To enhance capacity and number of local community volunteers
BS54	Wellesbourne Parish Council	Stratford	Cllr Johnston	17	2000	1800	To support local delivery of services for young people
BS68	The Gap	Warwick	Cllr Ashford	17	9930	8000	To support the delivery of positive programmes and activities for young people
BS59	Chase Meadow Community Centre	Warwick	Cllr Hopkinson	17	25000	12000	To establish a new community centre

BS73	Stratford Town Council	Stratford	Cllr Rolfe	17	1500	1350	To enable full engagement with young people and the Polish community on the Stratford Neighbourhood Plan
	Total of bids scoring 17				159,280	97,700	
C	Bids Scoring 16						
BS1	NW Autistic Spectrum Disorder Friendship Group	NW	Cllr Fowler	16	5000	3000	To establish a specialist toy library for the benefit of children with autism
BS25	Hillmorton Jubilee Assn (Rogers Hall Committee)	Rugby	Cllr Roodhouse	16	12954	8500	Refurbishment of community building to enhance its capability as a community hub
BS59	Can Do	Warwick	Cllr Boad	16	14332	10000	To support local people to take greater ownership / control of local provision
BS35	Henley in Arden War Memorial Trust	Stratford	Cllr Perry	16	10000	7000	To support local delivery of services for young people
BS16	Ash Green Youth Club	N&B	Cllr McCarney	16	1304	1100	To purchase lap tops for use in the Youth Club
BS44	Bidford Community Library	Stratford	Cllr Barnes	16	5000	3000	To support establishment of community library
BS48	Harbury Community Library	Stratford	Cllr Stevens	16	6891	4250	To support establishment of community library

BS49	Henley Community Library	Stratford	Cllr Perry	16	5000	3250	To support establishment of community library
BS55	Outhouse Youth Club Management Committee	Stratford	Cllr Saint	16	5000	3500	To support local delivery of services for young people
BS 72	Whitnash Youth Club	Warwick	Cllr Kirton	16	6358	5500	To ensure continuation of local independent youth club
	Total of bids scoring 16				72,199	49,100	
	Cumulative Total (bids scoring 16-18)				326,445	230,050	

D	Bids Scoring 15 or less						
BS 56	Salford Priors Youth Club	Stratford		15	2,335		To provide additional activities and to sustain the running of an independent youth club
BS 30	ACT. COM	Stratford		15	6,600		Support the refurbishment of the Pavilion Community Centre and to recruit train and support volunteers
BS 32	Get me Into Ltd	Stratford		15	16888		Support the development of multi purpose facilities at youth centre /Kineton High School
BS 33	Stepping Stones Pre School	Stratford		15	3000		To establish a safe outdoor learning area
BS 31	Aston Cantlow Village Hall Committee	Stratford		15	20000		To establish facilities for disabled people and storage at the village hall
BS69	Sikh Cultural and Sports Community Centre	Warwick		15	10000		Provide community youth provision for S Asian young people and an independent community library for the Asian community
BS 57	Age Uk Warwickshire	Warwick		15	20618		To provided dedicated information and advice officers (for BME communities)

BS4	Faststone Enterprise / Beeline Community Transport	NW		14	14717		Community Transport Study
BS16	Positive About Young people	N&B		14	5000		Establish a Mi PPD young people's council
BS27	RoSA	Rugby		14	20928		Recruit a qualified counsellor to work with children and young people
BS32A	Find Your Voice	Stratford		14	2540		Digital photographic project for adults with learning disability
BS31	Stratford CAB	Stratford		14	3000		Outreach service for Bidford on Avon
BS39	Netherfield Association	Stratford		14	20000		Funding to support worker to deliver Daily Living Skills
BS50	Southam Mini Bus Committee	Stratford		14	3000		To contribute towards purchase of community mini bus
BS53	Trustees of Earlswood Village hall	Stratford		14	15000		Extension to Village hall + fixtures and fittings
BS57A	African Caribbean Project	Warwick		14	12500		To stabilise organisation & provide sustainable services
BS58	Lunt Fort Kiddie care	Warwick		14	4000		Early Years Child Care provision
BS60	Hampton Magna Play Area Committee	Warwick		14	30000		Upgrade of existing play area
BS63	Hybrid Arts	Warwick		14	15000		To support young people to volunteer
BS70	Transition Town Leamington Spa	Warwick		14	4400		To run a series of permaculture workshops

BS71	Warwickshire Rural Community Council	Warwick		14	7500		To support transport operators to become more sustainable
BS73	Autism West Midlands	County Wide		13	29982		To provide for autism community coordinator, volunteer training and expenses
BS73	Coventry & Warwickshire Friend	County Wide		13	7000		Training and Volunteer Expenses
BS67	Sherbourne Village Hall Management Committee	Warwick		13	22000		Village Hall Renovation
BS55	Arc School Napton	Stratford		13	10605		To improve the representation of the community on the historic environment record
BS52	Stour United Business	Stratford		13	20000		Funding to support ongoing running costs
BS51	Stratford Sea Cadets	Stratford		13	2000		Provision of a bursary fund
BS26	Percival Guildhouse	Rugby		13	1850		New learning opportunities for adults
BS19A	Nuneaton Town Community Association	N&B		13	4328		Provide young people with the skills needed to fill gaps in service provision
BS10	Tannery Close Residents Assn	NW		13	7500		Provision of CCTV cameras and equipment
BS3	Carving Careers	NW		12	26960		To pride placements and work experience

BS5	Coleshill School	NW		12	12300		Provide arts opportunities for young people in the Coleshill school cluster
BS8	Kingsbury School / Friends of Kingsbury Library	NW		12	35000		To contribute towards new build for community library
BS13	Bulkington Amateur Boxing Club	N&B		12	8500		To support costs of running the facility
BS18	Exhall Amateur Boxing Club	N&B		12	15000		To purchase a small modular building
BS28	Rugby Sikh Community Assn	Rugby		12	50000		Extension to existing Sikh temple
BS30	Avon Bowling Club	Stratford		12	2000		Equipment to encourage new people of all ages to take part
BS37	Long Marston Village Shop	Stratford		12	1259		Car Park repairs
BS38	Lower Quinton Parish Council	Stratford		12	61475		To fund multi purpose play area / social hub
BS61	Hatton Park Residents Assn	Warwick		12	18600		Car park Extension
	Total of bids scoring 15 or less				573,385	0	
	Cumulative Total				899,830	230,050	