

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 June 2022

Report of the Head of Service Planning and Environment

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Protecting our environment;

Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

At its meeting on 17 February 2022, Full Council approved the allocation of an annual budget of £58,000 for a small grants scheme to support local nature and biodiversity projects. This report sets out the grant details and the process for Parish and Town Councils to access the funding through the Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to support and promote the Parish and Town Council Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme.

Detail

Full Council approved the allocation of an annual budget of £58,000 for a small grants scheme to support local nature and biodiversity projects. The grant will be made available to all Parish and Town Councils to access through the Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme (LDS).

The Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme has been in place since 2012 and invites Parish and Town Councils to opt in to receive a grant towards minor maintenance work which they carry out on public rights of way in their area. The option to opt in to receive a grant of £300 for biodiversity projects will be added to the annual Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme offer letter. Parish and Town Councils will be able to opt in for the biodiversity grant even if they do not choose to opt in for the Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme.

In line with the Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme process those opting in will receive an upfront payment on confirmation of their participation each year by the opt in deadline. Parish and Town Councils can work with local community groups and schools to support local projects in their areas. The grant could be used for small scale projects such as:

- Nest boxes
- Bird feeders
- Bug hotels
- Hedgehog houses
- Bat boxes
- Log piles
- Communal gardens
- Pollinator nest sites
- Planting wildflowers
- Creating ponds
- Living walls
- Rain gardens

The Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme annual reporting form will be adapted to request details on work delivered for the biodiversity grant. The scheme will be communicated to Parish and Town Councils through the annual Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme opt in letter and can be promoted through the Council's Parish and Town Council network.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Although individual sums awarded will be relatively small, there will need to be an effective audit trail of the money allocated. Monitoring appropriate to the level of grant awarded will be conducted through the established Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme reporting process.

Financial

An annual budget allocation of £58,000 for the biodiversity grant scheme was approved by Full Council on 17 February 2022. Administration of the scheme will be incorporated into the existing Public Rights of Way Local Delivery Scheme process.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A