

Wards Affected:

All Wards

ITEM 4**DELEGATED DECISION****20 FEBRUARY 2018****PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2017/18**

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Gifford, Cabinet member for Place

Report Sponsor: Tom Blackburne-Maze, Service Director, Public Realm Service

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Executive Summary:

To determine the allocation of grants from the Play Area Improvement Scheme.

This year the fund was significantly over subscribed with the total request for £186,634 from a possible fund of £72,200. There were applications from 7 parishes requesting funds for 13 projects.

The recommendations for the Play Area Improvement Scheme.2017/18 have been made which offer every parish submitting an application a grant, taking into account MKC priorities and officer comments on the proposed schemes.

The total value of the schemes from Play Area Improvement Scheme 2017/18, including Parish Council contributions, where grants are recommended is £200,019.00

Background:

The Play Area Improvement Scheme Fund has been provided each year by the Council to provide match funding towards Parish and Town Council initiated projects.

This decision constitutes a Key Decision.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Play Area Improvement Grants for 2017/18 be approved.

2. Issues

2.1 Officers in Service Groups relevant to the nature of the Grant applications have been consulted to help shape the report recommendation.

2.2 If granted, the Parish and Town Councils are responsible for local consultation.

Options

The first alternative is not to allocate grants this year but this would mean under-spending the revenue allocation and changing a long standing arrangement with parish and town councils.

2.3 The second alternative is to limit grants putting a ceiling on the amount which is available for each parish. This has already been done this year for applications

2.4 The preferred option is to give parishes their grants as applied for, which meet the grant criteria within the available budget.

3. Implications

3.1 Policy

None – the allocation of this scheme fund is consistent with the adopted Parishes' Protocol 2013 and the MKC Corporate Plan.

3.2 Resources and Risk

The Parish Grant Fund requested for 2017/18 is £71,786.00 which will support total project costs of £200,019. The main risk to any individual project is ensuring that the joint funding required is forthcoming. This is managed by not releasing the grant until either we have official confirmation from the Parish Council that the project is completed (fully funded by the Parish awaiting our contribution).

If we are being requested to pay in advance we require a project plan with expected completion date and confirmation of any third party funding. We also ensure a very detailed process of compliance with the Fund Criteria, including a project monitoring process, and, the Fund is audited by Internal Audit team on a regular basis.

The grant monies from any under-spends or any withdrawn projects remain in the budget and once there is a significant additional amount available, after consultation with the lead Cabinet Member, are offered for redistribution as per the Fund Criteria.

N	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

3.3 Carbon and Energy Management

None

3.4 Legal

The Parish Partnership Fund uses the Authorities' powers mainly under the Local Government Act 1972.

Other Implications

The financial contribution of the Parish & Town Council is the only implication attached to this scheme

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/councillors-and-committees/parish-and-town-councils/parish-grants>

Annex A: Play Area Investment Scheme application summary

Annex B: Play Area Investment Scheme Investment Fund Criteria