

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/026

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	20 th July 2022
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Community Infrastructure Fund
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for a framework for use of this fund

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to identify those items it wishes to explore in more detail for practicality

3. Information

- 3.1. The Council's budget includes £20,000 for "community infrastructure" which was intended to fund street furniture, very local facilities, and to support the Council's wider priorities of promoting the local economy, improving health and wellbeing, and developing more sustainable lifestyles (set out in more detail in section 6 below).
- 3.2. This report seeks to secure agreement on the sort of things that the fund could be used for and to ask members if they wish to make some commitments now. The schedule below list potential items of expenditure to achieve the corporate objective. More detail on each item are set out in Appendix One.

Item	Cost	Management and running costs	Corporate Policy met (from list in part 6)
Recycling bins in areas of high footfall – town centre and elsewhere	To be advised	Will require NNC to agree to empty the bins on an agreed frequency. They may request a contribution from KTC	1, 3 and 4
Combined bleed kit and defibrillator cabinets	£450-£600 plus £500 for a stand alone pole	Assume £250/yr per cabinet	1, 2 and 3
Cycling and cycle parking facilities	£4100*	See appendix*	1, 3 and 6
Additional street lighting in areas of poor coverage	Up to £5000 per column and any new ducting required to connect it to supply. (£150/metre)	£45-£75 per light in energy costs	1, 3 and 6
More speed devices	Up to £3250 each including solar panels and £1100 for every post required	Minimal – some battery and equipment replacement over time	3
Improved power points in Kettering Town centre	To be advised	Minimal	1
Town Council notice boards	c £1750 plus installation costs	None	7

4. Consultation and Engagement

The Council has been approached in respect of bleed kits/defibrillators and in respect of cycle facilities.

Street lighting has been referenced for certain areas as part of the Levelling up discussions taking place within NNC.

The other items have been covered in previous town council and committee meetings.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

5.1. The Council has £20,000 in the budget

- 5.2. Any new items purchased by the Town Council will be appropriately branded and there will be some cost to this.

6. Policy Implications

These are the relevant policies in the corporate plan which the fund can be used to support.

Economy

1. The Council will support the town centre – through encouraging and delivering facilities, through putting on events and markets, and will help to make the town centre safe, attractive, interesting and varied, with local businesses thriving alongside national retailers and service providers.

Health and Community

2. The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, particularly in the light of the impacts of covid 19, through its own services and in partnership with others.
3. The Council will support measures to improve public safety, road safety, and the safety of the night time economy in Kettering.

Sustainability

4. The Council has approved motions declaring a climate emergency. It has established a climate change working group, which is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people. It is currently prioritising widening the scope and opportunities for recycling and supporting more tree planting.
5. The Council will, within its own remit, strive to protect, restore and enhance our local biodiversity and the natural world that surrounds us and of which we are all a part and will strive to take the most sustainable approach to the design and delivery of its own services
6. The Council will support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure and the growth of public transport.

Organisational Effectiveness

7. The Council will set out to explain what it is seeking to do, and why, and will listen to what local people have to say to it about their needs and aspirations.

Background Papers

Email exchanges with First Responders, suppliers and NNC

Grant application in respect of cycle facilities

KBC consultation results on cycle facilities 2019

APPENDIX ONE – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RECYCLING BINS

Information on costs awaited from NNC

BLEED AND DEFIBRILLATOR CABINETS

Costs to buy - £450- £600 for a dual cabinet depending on size, and up to £500 for a pole for a free standing unit.

Cost to run – an average of £250 per year depending on usage; most costs will be occasional – battery replacement, pads and other consumables – but have a 5 year lifespan at most which means that expenditure will vary year to year.

Ownership – will fall to the Town Council for those we buy; but if placed on property which the Council does not own, there will need to be an agreement with the landowner as well.

Management - North Northants First Responders (NNFR) would do a monthly check on cabinets and advise if replacement materials were required. At least one supplier of cabinets also has an insurance scheme which allows for bi-annual inspection and some replacement of contents and batteries.

Coverage – NNFR’S aim is to have a cabinet within 1.5 minutes walk of every resident but at at least one in every residential area. They were already looking at providing a dual cabinet in the town centre and on the Grange estate.



CYCLING FACILITIES

The former KBC carried out a consultation on barriers to cycle use in 2019; the biggest barrier related to the safety of main roads for cyclists, but the third highest concern was the need for more secure parking facilities, to lessen the risks of bikes being stolen.

Separately, the old NCC bought some additional cycle racks but these were ordinary n shaped racks, which have never been installed. A survey of existing cycle parking racks in the town centre in May showed that there were plenty of racks, but not many in use, although cycles were often parked and fixed to other items of street furniture – presumably in locations where the owners could see them .

In the meantime, various interested parties have been exploring the possibility of an active travel hub being developed within an unused part of the Royal Hotel. An application for grant has been received for £4100 to help convert these premises so that it provides secure cycle storage on key event days, a range of information, support and free repair services, training and free cycle marking facilities and the scope for developing a travel plan which in turn will lever in more funding. The grant requested is £4100 and applications for other funding have been submitted to NNC and OPFCC ; £2150 has been secured already from Cycling UK.

Stand alone secure bike racks cost about plus installation costs.

STREET LIGHTING

Street lighting can improve community safety and reduce the feeling that an area is a no-go area at night; on the other hand, street lights can be a magnet for young people just hanging around and in turn attract drug dealing points, so care has to be taken about identifying the right locations.

SPEED DEVICES

Potential sites would need to be identified. Costs quoted include for a device, solar panel and battery fittings, and a stand alone pole assuming lamp-posts could not be strengthened to allow for the weight of the device.

An amendment to the current licence would be necessary and sites agreed with NNC.

There would be some discounts for bulk purchase e.g. 5% off for 3 and 10% off for 6 devices – this would not include the poles.



POWER POINTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

In the area of the general market, there is one electricity supply box with two power points within it, which constrains the ability of the market to grow and for events to be held in the area where more than two people require power. This was a risk for Kettfest this summer.

NOTICE BOARDS

Some examples from one well known supplier.



The Council has access to two notice boards on the Market Place which NNC no longer appear to use. It might be possible to arrange for their transfer to the Town Council. Nevertheless, this is only one part of town, and locations elsewhere – eg Horsemarket or near the railway station might be worth considering. A location near the clock tower has been mooted by members already.

Any location on public land would need the approval of NNC