

Title: Port Communities Resilience Fund (PCRF) – Community Facilities Grant Scheme (CFGS)	
Ward: Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston	Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig
Author: Alistair Reid	Job title: Service Director – Economy

Revenue Cost: £ 0	Source of Revenue Funding: match funding – external sources
Capital Cost: £ 1 million	Source of Capital Funding: Port freehold sale capital receipt
One off <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Finance narrative:

Port Communities Resilience Fund was approved by Cabinet in March 2015, using capital cash receipt from freehold land sale of the port. £1m was set aside to support a number of capital projects with no associated prudential borrowing liabilities. It was proposed during the last administration, this £1m would be used on a case by case basis, legible themes and priorities are:

- Jobs & Enterprise £450,000
- Social Impact/ Community Facilities £315,000
- Thriving High Streets £135,000
- Technical Assistance and Project Management £100,000

Please note, as a part of the programme, the technical assistance / project management support is capped at 10% of the total capital funding available and is for the purpose of assisting community organisations in developing the capital project proposals. In the event if any of these costs cannot be capitalised, the one-off revenue cost would be absorbed by the Economic Development revenue budget.

Finance Officer: Tian Ze Hao

Summary of issue / proposal: Following initial approval to set up a £1 million capital fund for regeneration projects in the Port Communities by Cabinet in March 2015, needs analysis and stakeholder consultations over 2015-16, approval is now sought for the three Priorities - Jobs & Enterprise, Social Impact (Community Facilities) and Thriving High Streets, and the Fund allocations as proposed. Approval is also sought to commence delivery in the Ward with the launch this year of a £315,000 Community Facilities Grant Scheme open to community and voluntary organisations based in or serving the Ward. Finally, Cabinet is asked to delegate approval of the final schemes for the Jobs and Enterprise and Thriving High Streets Priorities to the Cabinet Lead in consultation with the Strategic Director – Resources.

Summary of proposal & options appraisal:

- After the March 2015 Cabinet decision, a consultation process was undertaken initially with Ward Councillors and later the Neighbourhood Partnership to develop the remit and spend priorities for the capital fund. The dialogue established the three thematic priorities and also the 'resilience' principles, including the attraction of external match contributions, financial and wider sustainability of projects, and fair distribution across the Ward, taking account of impacts of the Port activities on communities.
- The Mayor and Cabinet members were briefed on the proposed remit and priorities for the PCRF in June 2016. Further research into socio-economic deprivation across the Ward, employment, skills, entrepreneurship and state of the local centres, and how to build a resilient approach, was undertaken by Council service teams during 2016, and informed the allocations to thematic priorities and actions. Further information detailing the business case for the priorities and allocations is given at Appendix A.
- The priorities and weighting of resources 2/3rd to economic and 1/3rd to social development were also influenced by Neighbourhood Plan work undertaken with the Lawrence Weston and Avonmouth communities. This emphasised the need to improve local economic support to residents and traders, as well as social, community and health infrastructures across the four villages, including Shirehampton and Sea Mills. The BCC Capital Board reviewed delivery proposals in Oct 2016. See Appendix A for the consideration of options for allocations between the priorities.
- Consultations also highlighted the need for technical assistance resources for local organisations and trader groups to develop resilient capital projects. Thus 10% of the Fund is allocated and split equally between a dedicated PCRF Programme / Projects Enabling Manager employed by the Council on a 2

years fixed term contract, and a technical assistance fund for architects and planning fees and other professional advice related to match finance sources and business / operational planning.

- The Community Facilities Grant Scheme is the first PCRF project to be delivered, with a two stage application process modelled on the Bristol Impact Fund approved by Cabinet in 2016. It has been long anticipated, and, due to the lead time for the 3 stage application process and community participation elements, needs to be launched later this summer in order to award grants of between £10,000 - £100,000 to local organisations by September 2018 after meeting the scheme criteria, and screening by technical appraisal and community panels. Applicants will be required to raise 100% external match funding to the grant. Further details of the CFGS are given in Appendix A.
- Schemes for the other two priorities, including a network of jobs, training and enterprise support facilities across the Ward, and street scene / environmental improvements for each of the local retail centres, are currently being finalised by the PCRF Strategic Board and will be brought forward later in the year.

Recommendation(s) / steer sought:

Cabinet is recommended to approve:

- the proposed three thematic Priorities and Technical Assistance scheme for the £1 million Port Communities Resilience Fund and their respective capital allocations;
- the objectives, criteria and delivery plans for the Community Facilities Grant Scheme and its public launch in August / September 2017, and to delegate the award and distribution of grants (including signature of grant agreements) to the Strategic Director in consultation with Cabinet Member - Resources;
- the delegation of further decisions to approve final delivery plans for schemes under the Jobs & Enterprise and High Streets priorities to the Strategic Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Resources.

City Outcome: The new Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston ward (created 2016) is now the largest in the City by population. Whilst the PCRF and Community Facilities Grant Scheme are ward-specific, they are designed to lever external match finance and complement the long term development of the Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area by improving existing community infrastructure and deliver social and economic regeneration and new opportunities for residents, small businesses / local traders across the four communities on a significant scale. Parallel initiatives relevant to the PCRF priorities in the Ward and wider area have been the £1.2 m SevernNet Working Project funded from 2015-17 by the Big Lottery Coastal Communities Fund, the Council's Work Zones and Outset Bristol business support initiatives (2017-19), and the plans to invest around £5 m to re-develop the old College site in Lawrence Weston to provide a new Health and Community Services Hub, housing and supermarket.

It is expected that around 6-7 local community organisations running community centres and sports clubs will benefit from the CFGS to improve their buildings, facilities and equipment by end 2019, which will in turn enable them to offer better quality and more cost efficient services to the community. The Jobs & Enterprise and Thriving High Streets priorities will assist at least 60 local residents into work / enterprise and improve the environment and vitality of the four local centres for local traders and shoppers alike.

Health Outcome summary:

CFGS: increased take up of sport/exercise. Reduction of people who are overweight or obese. The impact of the CFGS will be complementary to parallel schemes including the investment in the Lawrence Weston Locality Hub providing modernised community health facilities and services.

Sustainability Outcome summary:

CFGS: all projects will need to demonstrate that the grant funding will make either the organisation more sustainable / resilient (via business plans) or how they will make the community as a whole more resilient – this programme is featured as a project in the Bristol Resilience Strategy

Equalities Outcome summary:

CFGS: will deliver outcomes in 6 neighbourhoods (super output areas) with 41.1% - 54.6% of children under 16 in low income families (2013), and making public buildings more accessible.

Impact / Involvement of partners:

CFGS: will increase the resilience of the voluntary sector, in some case to deliver activities that the Council has historically delivered (e.g. potential library services, jobs and skills support and training).

During the application process local businesses will be partnered with the voluntary sector to provide support and potential match funding.

Consultation carried out:

PCRf and CFGS: the Ward Councillors and Neighbourhood Partnership during 2015-16, and the Community Conversation / stakeholder event held locally in Nov 2016, which informed the objectives, type of actions, delivery process and criteria for each PCRf priority and the CFGS scheme – see Appendix B for the Neighbourhood Partnership and community consultation reports. The PCRf Strategic Board set up in December 2016 comprising the Ward Councillors and representatives from each of the 4 communities and the business sector steers the use of the Fund.

Legal Issues:

1. Grant/Contract

Under a grant agreement, the Council makes a payment to the recipient for a specific purpose. The recipient is not obliged to deliver any goods or services to the Council, although the Council may claw back any grant which has not been spent or is misapplied.

Under a contract, the Council pays a provider to provide specific services and/or goods and/or works. The provider is obliged to provide the services/goods/works, and if the provider does not it may be sued by the Council.

From the information provided, it appears that the funds transferred to organisations under this report will constitute grants rather than payments pursuant to contracts. This distinction is important as contracts where the value is above certain thresholds must be procured in compliance with either the Council's procurement rules or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, grant agreements do not.

2. State aid

Whenever the Council grants a benefit in any form to an undertaking, it is possible the grant may constitute State aid. State aid is illegal unless it falls under certain exemptions.

It is unlikely that the grants given under this report will constitute illegal State aid because:

- A grant will constitute State aid where it affects trade between member states. It will need to be considered whether these grants could affect State aid in each instance, but if they do not affect trade between member states they will not constitute State aid.
- One of these exemptions is the de minimis exemption, under which with benefits up to the value of E 200k may be given to an organisation over any 3 year rolling period. As the limit on grants proposed under this report is £100k, it appears the grants will fall under this exemption. (However the State aid given during the rolling 3 year period to each organisation must be reviewed).

Further legal advice will be needed on this point when further information is available regarding the likely amounts and recipients of the grants.

3. Award Procedure

The process to award grants must be fair and reasonable, and the Council must abide by any rules it sets in relation to the process (also consideration needs to be given to which legal forms for bidding organisations will be acceptable to the Council as this has raised issues in other grant processes, please refer to legal for further detailed advice on this point)

e. 4. Grant agreements

Grant agreements must include all clauses re match funding claw back etc

Legal Officer: Sinead Willis

Policy/Comms Officer: Tim Borrett

DLT sign-off	SLT sign-off	Cabinet Member sign-off
Nicki Beardmore 4/7/2017	Anna Klonowski 4/7/2017	Mayor 7/7/2017

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Exempt Information	NO