



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate
Change: Councillor Tim Ward
Report by: Jackie Hanson, Operations & Resources Manager
Relevant scrutiny Environment Scrutiny 22/1/2013
committee: Committee
Wards affected: All Wards

SUSTAINABLE CITY GRANTS 2013-14 & PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING 2013-16

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report details applications from voluntary and not for profit organisations for 2013-14 Sustainable City Grant funding and makes recommendations for funding.
- 1.2 The Council currently supports two countywide environmental partnerships through sustainability partnership funding from the Strategy & Partnerships base budget (the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Cambridgeshire Travel for Work Partnership). In January 2011 Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed to reduce the funding awarded to the Travel for Work Partnership (TfW) to bring it in line with awards made by other contributing local authorities.
The Committee also agreed in 2011 to review funding of both partnerships beyond 2012/13.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the recommendations for Sustainable City Grants to voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in 2013-14 as set out in Section 3.6 of this report, subject to confirmation of the Council's 2013-14 budget in February 2013 and, in some cases, to the provision of further information from applicants.

- 2.2 To approve the continued funding of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Cambridgeshire Travel for Work Partnership at their current levels for the next three financial years (2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16), subject to satisfactory annual evaluation reports.
Funding of these partnerships beyond 2015/16 will be reviewed in 2015.

3. Background

Sustainable City Grants 2013-14

- 3.1 In January 2011 the Environment Scrutiny Committee approved the following after a review of the Sustainable City Grants:
- § The budget for Sustainable City Grants be rationalised into a single project based budget of £50,000
 - § The management and administration of this budget to transfer to the grants team in the Community Development Service
 - § The grants process to be aligned to those used in Community Development for other Council grants budgets
 - § To honour any previous core funding commitments
- 3.2 Officers in Community Development and Corporate Strategy, with expertise on the grants and the environmental objectives, work closely together to promote, support and assess grant applications.
- 3.3 Sustainable City Grants – Environmental Funding Priorities 2013-14. These priorities are as set out on the Council’s Environmental Framework and applications have been assessed in terms of their ability to support, and deliver outcomes against, these priorities.

Priority Ref	Priority Description
	Tackle the causes and consequences of climate change
SC 1.1	Reduce carbon dioxide emissions
SC1.2	Manage climate change risks
SC1.3	Reduce fuel poverty
	Minimise waste
SC 2.1	Reduce the amount of waste generated
SC 2.2	Increase waste reuse, recycling, and composting
SC 2.3	Reduce waste sent to landfill
	Protect the local environment
SC 3.1	Reduce pollution of air, water and land
SC 3.2	Improve street and environmental cleanliness by reducing levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting/fly tipping
SC3.3	Protect and enhance local wildlife

These will need review in 2013 following the implementation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2013 -16 approved by this committee in October 2012.

- 3.4 Application Process – the Sustainable City Grants for 2013-14 were publicised with a closing date of 4th October. Detailed assessments on all of the applications were undertaken looking at:
- § How the priorities are met and what outcomes are expected
 - § Who the beneficiaries are, how many and where they are from
 - § The evidence of need, partners involved in the project, and consultation undertaken
 - § How projects will be measured and monitored
 - § Whether the organisation meets the eligibility criteria
 - § The amount requested in relation to the total cost of the project and anticipated benefit to city residents

A chart of all applications and proposed awards is detailed in 3.6 below.

- 3.5 There are no commitments remaining to the previous funding arrangements. All three-year service level agreements have now been completed.

- 3.6 Chart of applications and proposed awards for Sustainable City Grant funding 2013-14:

Group	Purpose	Bid	Award
Cambridge Carbon Footprint	Eco-coaching pilot. Work one to one with individuals, supporting them to reduce their carbon footprint in food, travel, waste and home energy. Information pack, training, identifying volunteers.	2,400	1,500
Cambridge Carbon Footprint	Promoting a low carbon Cambridge - CCF events to raise awareness of climate change and actions individuals can take to live a more low carbon life style. (Local food conference, Skills Fest 2013, Eco Ren in Progress, Swishing, Carbon Conversations plus others).	4,010	4,010
Cambridge Carbon Footprint	Open Eco Homes 2014 - residents can visit homes where energy saving measures have been made.	1,930	1,930

Cambridge Past Present & Future	20-25 learning events for children, young people and families to understand wildlife and the environment aiming for to look after their local wildlife.	1,900	1,900
Cambridge Film Consortium	Young people's digital film production projects to raise environmental awareness in the City.	4,950	4,950
Close the door campaign	Research on retailers, encouraging 20 to adopt the closing door policy. Maintain 500+ stores already supporting the policy.	4,756	3000
Mill Road Winter Fair	Hats project. - material, activities, prizes and website.	50	50
Oblique Arts	Eco fashion house. Pop up fashion house, café, work space, film screenings, fashion shows to encourage reuse and recycling.	4,783	2,000
The Wildlife Trust	Cambridge City Midweek Conservation Team - undertake practical nature conservation management on wildlife sites and local nature reserves across Cambridge (15 sites) involving local people as volunteers (350 volunteer days).	5,000*	0*
Total awards			19,340
Budget available			50,000
Budget remaining after awards			30,660

* This service has previously received core funding from Sustainable City Grants. This remains a service rather than project based activity and is more aligned to supporting our Green Spaces service. Officers are working together to identify appropriate funding available and the responsibility for this. The applicant has requested more than the £5,000 project award limit. This report requests approval for the Executive Councillor to award funding Sustainable City Grants budget for an appropriate amount should this be required following the outcome of the above discussions.

3.7 Any funding available after this main grants round is available for organisations to apply for in accordance with the eligibility criteria. Officers will promote this funding. Applications will be considered on an individual basis until the budget has been spent. Awards up to £2,000 can be approved by officers and awards from £2,001- £5,000 can be approved by the Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change inviting comments from the Chair and Spokes. (There is a maximum £5,000 award towards projects).

Sustainability Partnership Funding 2013-16

3.8 Prior to 2011/12 the Council funded the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Cambridgeshire Travel for Work Partnership from the Sustainable City core-funding budget. In January 2011 Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed that they should no longer be funded from a grants budget designed to provide support to locally based community groups and organisations. Therefore funding for these partnerships was removed from the Sustainable City grants budget and retained within Strategy and Partnership's base budget. A decision on whether to continue funding these partnerships beyond 2012/13 was to be made at a later date.

3.9 The sustainability partnerships budget (£9,500) is in place for the next three financial years (2013/14 - 2015/16).

3.10 **The Cambridgeshire Travel For Work Partnership (TfW)** is a major contributor to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, and provides a travel plan service for an increasing number of employers in the city.

TfW was awarded £6,000 for 2012/13.

3.11 **The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership** does not currently received funding from all Cambridgeshire Local Authorities. However, the Partnership has a proven track record of delivering biodiversity projects in Cambridge and across the County. For example, City Council funding for 2011/12 contributed to the Coe Fen Planthopper project, which has provided useful data to inform the management plan on this recently designated Local Nature Reserve.

3.13 This Partnership is well placed to deliver projects and feed into the recently formed Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for Cambridgeshire. The LNP is a new government-supported initiative bringing together, at a strategic level, Green Infrastructure, biodiversity, health, development and the emerging Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The Biodiversity Partnership was awarded £3,500 for 2012/13.

4. Implications

- (a) Financial Implications - as detailed in the report
- (b) Staffing Implications - none
- (c) Equal Opportunities Implications - none

- (d) Environmental Implications - Climate change rating +H. The two Partnerships have a high positive environmental impact on both the city of Cambridge and the wider county, and play a crucial supporting role for officers in the Environment department. They contribute towards protecting and improving the biodiversity of our vitally important natural green spaces and reducing the negative impacts of car travel by encouraging greater numbers of commuters to use sustainable transport.
- (e) Consultation and Communication - none
- (f) Community Safety - grant aided projects may have a positive impact on community safety although this is not a primary outcome
- (g) Procurement - none

5. Background papers

- § Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee report January 2011
- § Applications (not available to the public)

6. Appendices

None

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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