

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Title of report	<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY AMBITIONS</b>
Key Decision	a) Financial Yes b) Community Yes
Contacts	Councillor Alison Smith MBE 01530 835668 <a href="mailto:alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>  Interim Director of Resources 01530 454833 <a href="mailto:andrew.hunkin@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">andrew.hunkin@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>
Purpose of report	To request Cabinet approval for reserves to be allocated towards supporting community ambitions.
Reason for Decision	Approval needed for allocation of reserves towards supporting community ambitions.
Council Priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications: Financial/Staff Link to relevant CAT Risk Management Equalities Impact Assessment Human Rights Transformational Government	As set out in the report.  None.  Senior officers will liaise with the appropriate authorities on spending the allocation. Final release of the allocation will rest with senior officers in liaison with the Community Services Portfolio Holder.  Not applicable.  There are no Human Rights implications.  Not applicable.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Deputy Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory

Consultees	Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, Castle Donington, Lockington cum Hemington, Kegworth parish councils and Newbridge School
Background papers	<a href="#">General Fund and Special Expenses Revenue Budgets 2015/16 report and minutes - Cabinet on 10 February 2015</a>
Recommendations	<p><b>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF £50K RESERVES TO ASSIST NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL IN DEVELOPING ITS RUNNING TRACK PROPOSAL</b></li> <li><b>2. APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE £50K ALLOCATED TO FREE WIFI, TO SUPPORT ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE TOWN COUNCIL'S IMPROVEMENTS TO ST HELEN'S CHURCHYARD</b></li> <li><b>3. APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF £300K RESERVES TO ASSIST ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE TOWN COUNCIL IN DELIVERING ASPECTS OF ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b></li> <li><b>4. APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF £300K RESERVES TO ASSIST CASTLE DONINGTON, LOCKINGTON CUM HEMINGTON AND KEGWORTH PARISH COUNCILS IN ACHIEVING THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS</b></li> <li><b>5. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO COMMIT EXPENDITURE OF THE NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL RESERVE REFERRED TO IN RECOMMENDATION 1</b></li> <li><b>6. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO COMMIT EXPENDITURE OF THE ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE TOWN COUNCIL RESERVE REFERRED TO IN RECOMMENDATIONS 2 AND 3</b></li> <li><b>7. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO COMMIT EXPENDITURE OF THE CASTLE DONINGTON, LOCKINGTON CUM HEMINGTON AND KEGWORTH PARISH COUNCILS RESERVE REFERRED TO IN RECOMMENDATION 4</b></li> <li><b>8. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF SERVICES TO NEGOTIATE AND AGREE THE TERMS OF THE LEGAL AGREEMENTS REQUIRED IN THE FURTHERANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS 1 TO 7</b></li> </ol>

## 1. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DETAILS

### **Newbridge School Running Track**

- 1.1 Discussions have been held with Newbridge School on a running track proposal. A running track facility does not exist anywhere in the district, with the nearest facilities in Loughborough or Burton. The school have proposed that they would seek external funding to provide a 400 metres athletics track with associated facilities including additional parking. It would primarily be a school facility and also open for community use outside of school hours and terms. The school would be able to offer its land to accommodate the facility along with the long-term management of the facility.
- 1.2 The total cost of the project is estimated by the school at being in excess of £2 million. Along with any capital contributions either the District or Parish Council are able to make, the school would be looking to Sport England and also local and national businesses to support the project.
- 1.3 The school has a history of successful fund-raising, yet at this stage cannot offer any financial contribution itself to the project, although that may change. The school has indicated that if the Council was able to offer/commit some funds to the project this would be critical as a starting point to allow the school to negotiate with potential funders.
- 1.4 Given that there is currently no such facility in the district to support talent development with young people, adults, disabled persons or target groups, this project would provide such a facility and will provide for the growth of clubs and associations leading to lifelong participation in sport. Also given the recent success of Team GB in the Rio Olympics, the development of the first athletics track within the district could prove to be a welcome sporting legacy.
- 1.5 Therefore Cabinet is recommended to allocate £50,000 from reserves to assist Newbridge School in developing this proposal. The details of the expenditure will be negotiated by the Director of Services in consultation with the Community Services Portfolio Holder.

### **Supporting other communities**

- 1.6 In recognising the level of investment by the Council in the Coalville area and the wider benefits that will bring to communities within its vicinity, it is proposed to provide funding in support of two other areas within the District.
- 1.7 Firstly, supporting the Ashby area through the Ashby Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan. Informal and positive discussions with representatives of the Town Council have provided sufficient information to propose the following:
  - Reallocation of the £50,000, previously allocated to Ashby Town Council by Cabinet on 10 February 2015 to support free wifi (no wifi project is being taken forward) to now support the Town Council's funding of improvements to St Helen's churchyard
  - Allocation of £300,000 to one off projects which support the delivery of aspects of its Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.8 Secondly, as part of the approvals of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (the Roxhill development) there is a requirement for the developer to provide financial sums to the three local councils at certain trigger points in the development. The three parish councils are Castle Donington, Lockington cum Hemington and Kegworth which will each receive £100,000 each.

- 1.9 Following an informal and positive meeting with each council it is proposed to match the developer's contribution with £100,000 to each of the three councils to support local community projects. These projects will be determined by the parish councils within the criteria set within the planning regulations. Therefore Cabinet is recommended to allocate £300,000 in total to these councils.
- 1.10 The detail of the plans will be developed over the next months with the four Councils by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Community Services Portfolio Holder. Cabinet is asked to allocate a total of £600,000 as set out above and reallocate an existing reserve regarding Ashby Town Council.
- 1.11 Cabinet is also asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Services to negotiate and agree the terms of the legal agreements required in the furtherance of recommendations 1 to 7.