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**Report to:** Cabinet **Date of Meeting:** 20 June 2013

**Subject:** Community Support Fund (CSF) and Capital Priorities Fund (CPF)

**Report of:** Director of Corporate Services **Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** Yes **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Exempt/Confidential** No

### **Purpose/Summary**

To set out the proposed purpose of the funds and governance arrangements

### **Recommendation(s)**

To ask Cabinet to agree:

- (1) the purpose of the funds as set out in paragraphs 2.1 - 2.3 of the report;
- (2) the delegation of decision making on the:
  - Community Support Fund to Cabinet Member - Communities and Environment
  - Cabinet Priorities Fund to Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Tourism; and
- (3) all decisions to be made in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member portfolio holder and any comments arising from the consultation to be included in the report

### **How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

	<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community	X		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	X		
3	Environmental Sustainability	X		
4	Health and Well-Being	X		
5	Children and Young People	X		
6	Creating Safe Communities	X		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	<b>X</b>		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	<b>X</b>		

**Reasons for the Recommendation:**

To enable the Council to achieve its budget reduction targets, but enable alternative methods of service delivery to be explored at no future cost to the Council.

To further advance the delivery of priorities determined by the Council

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

These are one off resources built into Council budget for 2013/14.

**Implications:**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Human Resources</b> None		
<b>Equality</b>		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery:** This will support the development and delivery of services at no future cost to the Council. It will also further advance priorities for the Council

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT (FD2231/13) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD1547/13) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**Are there any other options available for consideration?** Option is to not have these funds in place. This would limit the development of priorities and alternative methods of delivery and potentially prevent new ideas being explored.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet

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**Background Papers:**

None

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Cabinet on 31 January 2013 agreed the introduction of a Community “Transition Fund” which will be named the Community Support Fund (CSF) to allow for “Invest to Save” initiatives initially for £1m. In addition, Cabinet agreed on 25 April 2013 to the creation of a £1m fund to further advance Council priorities. This is called the Capital Priorities Fund. Due to the cross cutting nature of the funds, it is proposed that these two one off resources have a combined process which sets out some key criteria and principles for any potential use of resource to be assessed against. This report sets out the details of what these could be used for and the governance structure for decision making.
- 1.2 The priorities for use of the Capital Priorities Fund are as follows:
- Reducing youth unemployment
  - Improving town, village and neighbourhood centres
  - Protecting parks, greenspace and leisure opportunities
  - Protecting our most vulnerable
  - Promoting community resilience
- 1.3 The above priorities apply to the Community Support Fund which also has a key imperative to contribute towards the enablement of other organisations to provide services that are valuable to local communities and individuals that the Council can no longer afford to do.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The following sets out the key principles for the two funds.
- a) Fund is £2 million non-recurrent revenue and capital funding.
  - b) Fund is a source of one off term funding for schemes that principally will allow the Council to advance its priorities set out in para 1.2 and achieve its budget reduction targets over the next two years. It will also be used to look to 2015/16 and provide potential alternative options for services that the Council may no longer be able to fund but are valued by our communities.
  - c) There is no bidding process for the funds, the Cabinet Members for Communities and Environment and Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Tourism will determine their use against the criteria and priorities for the funds working with other Cabinet Member portfolio holders.
  - d) The funds can be granted to groups or organisations who show that their schemes will help achieve the Council's priorities and budgetary requirements and by providing services in a more cost effective and sustainable way.
  - e) It is anticipated that grants will be awarded on a one-off/non-recurrent basis. The allocation of one off funding does not alter the service change

being removed from the budget saving/ policy change as agreed at Council.

- f) Proposals for use of the funds to be forwarded to the Director of Corporate Services.
- i) Decisions on approval or rejection of use of the funds are delegated to Cabinet Member - Communities and Environment for Community Support Fund and Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Tourism in consultation with any relevant Cabinet Members affected. There will most likely be cross over in terms of ideas coming forward and there may be times when joint decision making by the two respective Cabinet Members is appropriate.

2.2 Cabinet are asked to agree to the following criteria:

- Organisations developing proposals with the Council will in the main be community and voluntary sector, social enterprises and mutuals. For town, village and neighbourhood centres this will also include local businesses. (Other organisations may work with the Council on developing ideas, but it is expected that there will be a cash injection in exceptional circumstances).
- Extent that they can demonstrate that this will generate significant cash releasing efficiency savings against Council priorities and two year Budget Plan and build community resilience to carry on these services in a sustainable way at no cost to the Council.
- Organisational ability to deliver the proposal past idea stage and make it sustainable.
- Compatibility with Council budget priorities and needs of communities
- Level of focus on areas contributing towards priorities, making savings and communities. **Examples** of focus areas could include apprenticeships, town, village and neighbourhood centres, libraries, sports pitches, park rangers, housing options, youth provision, financial assessments and childrens centres, welfare reform impacts on most vulnerable
- Funding development of new proposals will be short term in nature usually as this is a one off resource

2.3 Cabinet are asked to agree what it cannot be used for:

- To pump prime new initiatives, for example foodbanks.
- To replace lost Council funding where decisions have been made to stop services.
- Any proposal that is reliant on a future contribution from the Council to continue a service post funding