

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 19 March 2015

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Title: Strategic Initiatives Fund

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Robert Chambers

Item for decision

Summary

1. This report sets out three proposals for use of the Strategic Initiatives Fund.

Recommendations

2. The Cabinet is recommended to agree the allocation of:
 - i. £50,000 for the Cycle Strategy as asset out in paragraph.
 - ii. £100,000 towards the cost of Neighbourhood Plans.
 - iii. £150,000 for the installation of photovoltaic panels on the two buildings at the Shire Hill depot.

Financial Implications

3. There is sufficient money available within the Strategic Initiatives Fund.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	No specific implications
Community Safety	No specific implications
Equalities	No specific implications
Health and Safety	No specific implications
Human Rights/Legal Implications	No specific implications
Sustainability	No specific implications
Ward-specific impacts	No specific implications
Workforce/Workplace	No specific implications

Summary

- This report sets out three new schemes to be funded from the Strategic Initiatives Fund.

Cycle Strategy

- In February 2015 Cabinet approved the new Uttlesford Cycle Strategy. This underlines the importance the Council attributes to both recreational and commuting cycling. It is therefore proposed to set up a fund of £50,000 to be managed through the Planning and Housing Policy Team to support the delivery of cycling infrastructure in accordance with the Cycle Strategy. This will focus on the replacement and provision of cycle stands, signage and small scale works.

Neighbourhood Plans

- The production of Neighbourhood Development Plans and Parish Plans is an important tool in allowing local communities to bring forward ideas and plans for their area to develop over future years. This community empowerment is an important part of the Localism Act and fits in with the Councils desire to support communities. It is therefore proposed to set up a fund of £100,000 to be managed through the Planning and Housing Policy Team to support the development of Neighbourhood and Community Planning within Uttlesford. A paper on how this fund will operate will be prepared and presented to the Uttlesford Planning Policy Working Group on 30 March 2015.

Photovoltaic Panels (PV)

- The Council has previously looked at installing PV panels however it was discounted due to the feed-in tariff changing and making the scheme unviable. The situation in the market place has now changed and PV panels are once again viable.
- The proposal is, subject to survey and cost of strengthening work, to install PV panels on the vehicle workshop and museum store at Shire Hill depot in Saffron Walden.
- The sum of £150,000 would include the anticipated cost of roof strengthening should the survey identify that as being necessary.
- This would provide 'free' electricity to the two stores and would give a small income to the council from the feed-in tariff. The anticipated payback period for this type of building is in the region of 8 years.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Projects do not proceed	1 (initial studies indicate these are all viable projects)	1 (if not spent the money returns to the Strategic Initiative Fund)	

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.