

**SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL – SCOPING TEMPLATE**

<b>REVIEW TOPIC</b>	<b>SHIRE Community and Environment Grants</b>
<b>OFFICER SUPPORT</b>	Tom Purnell, Assistant Chief Executive Zafar Saleem, Head of Service, Communities, Policy & Resilience James O'Brien, Team Manager, Environment Policy & Strategy
<b>RATIONALE</b>	<p>The MTFS 2023/24 – 2026/27 proposal to cease delivery of the SHIRE Community and Environment Grant programmes with immediate effect was questioned at the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Members requested a review to determine the future of both grant programmes in 2023/24 and onwards.</p> <p><i>Noted: The budgets currently assigned to each grants programme are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SHIRE Community Grants - £550k (£500k revenue, £50k capital)</li> <li>- SHIRE Environment Grants - £40k (revenue)</li> </ul>
<b>PURPOSE OF REVIEW /OBJECTIVES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To determine the impacts and value for money achieved through the SHIRE Community and Environment Grants programme.</li> <li>2. To examine the profile of past and current recipients and key metrics (e.g., outputs, outcomes, value of awards, etc.).</li> <li>3. To consider the potential impact of the discontinuation of both grant programme, the value of the current programme, and TOM (small/large grants, amounts, repeat applications, match funding only, type of recipient, targeting and themes, grants conditions, simplification of process etc.).</li> </ol>
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	Three month period from March – May 2023
<b>METHODOLOGY/ APPROACH</b>	<p>To receive written and verbal evidence from witnesses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected Members</li> <li>• County Council Grants and Funding officers</li> <li>• Officers from the Funding and Communities Teams (Chief Execs), Community Delivery (Public Health), Environment Team, Commissioning &amp; Planning, (Adult Social Care) and Finance (Corporate Resources)</li> <li>• A representative selection of SHIRE Grant beneficiaries</li> <li>• A representative selection of key VCSE organisations/partners</li> <li>• A representative selection of other major grant funders (e.g., National Lottery Community Fund; BBC Children in Need; Lloyds TSB Foundation, Leicestershire &amp; Rutland Community Foundation)</li> <li>• Representatives from District/Borough Councils and Parish/Town Councils</li> </ul> <p>Proposed approach, to include three meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting 1 with County Council Officers (cross department)</li> <li>• Meeting 2 to hear feedback from VCSE organisations and Grant beneficiaries</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting 3 to hear from other grant funders and other partners/stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>OUTCOMES</b>	To make recommendations to the Cabinet on the future of the SHIRE Community and Environment grant programmes.
<b>CONSULTATION/ COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<p>Consultations to be undertaken with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected Members</li> <li>Officers from across the County Council</li> <li>Relevant key partners and stakeholders including VCSE organisations, other VCSE grant funders and public sector partners</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	A press release may be issued when the final report is published.
<b>RISKS AND BARRIERS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Timescales could be ambitious, so sufficient officer resource requires allocation to the review to ensure deadlines are met.</li> <li>2. Council finances could worsen further over the short term which may mean the full saving needs to be taken to contribute to a balanced MTFS.</li> <li>3. The review panel do not reach an agreed position.</li> </ol>