

**Submission Cabinet meeting of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 Item 4 Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel – SHIRE Community Grants and SHIRE Environment Grants**

I write to request the Cabinet re-consider its proposal to phase out the SHIRE Community Grants and Shire Environmental Grants. The SHIRE grants support local community groups in Leicestershire deliver important projects. These projects often relate to key issues at the moment of supporting local community organisations and protecting the environment.

I must disagree with the Cabinets recommendation of abolishing the SHIRE grants scheme after 2023/24.

Whilst I understand there has been an increase in the amount allocated to the SHIRE Grants since the outbreak of Covid-19 could the amount allocated to them not be returned to levels similar to the Pre-Covid period? Also concerns have been raised about groups making multiple applications over a number of years, instead of abolishing the scheme altogether just amend rules to limit grants to new applicants only. While the grants are meant for small community groups instead of large organisations again changing the rules to limit them to small community groups rather than abolishing the scheme altogether seems to be the way forward.

I would urge the Cabinet to drop it's proposals to abolish the SHIRE grants and instead continue the scheme with a reduced fund targeted specifically at small local community groups in Leicestershire.

Councillor Michael Mullaney  
Leader of the Opposition Leicestershire County Council

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