

COUNCIL
8 OCTOBER 2020

Report of the Director of Community & Environmental Services

COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To launch a Derbyshire Dales District Council Community Payback Scheme and to seek approval for a supplementary revenue budget of £6,000.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The proposal for the District Council to launch a Community Payback Scheme be agreed.
2. To approve a supplementary revenue budget of £6,000 for 2020/21 to be used for the scheme to improve areas within the District
3. The proposal to trial a work placement with Community Rehabilitation Company to work within our Clean & Green Team be agreed for a 3 month period with the option to extend this period if the Clean and Green Manager is satisfied with the placement scheme

WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

STRATEGIC LINK

The Community Payback Scheme as proposed in this report supports our Clean & Green Team to improve the District Councils land, parks and open spaces, delivering on the District Council's priority 'Place'. The scheme also allows for developing relations within the community.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) runs Community Payback for Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottingham and Rutland. The scheme is for offenders to undertake unpaid and supervised reparation work that benefits local communities. Each offender is risk assessed and they work a specified number of hours usually between 40 to 300 hours.
- 1.2 The range of work includes groundwork clearance; gardening, weeding and planting; landscaping, creating paths and fences; minor building work, repairing walls; painting and decorating for community venues.

- 1.3 This scheme has been undertaken by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and Parish Councils have been able to apply through DCC for CRC to undertake works in their parishes on projects which they can't complete themselves or to improve the surroundings. See Appendix 1, local case study.
- 1.4 CRC charge £150 per day to cover the cost of the supervisor and the minibus to transport the offenders to the location. CRC provide the tools to complete the works but the District Council would provide any materials required.

2. REPORT

Community Payback Scheme

- 2.1 There are a number of areas within the district that the District Council are unable to maintain and complete works to a desired standard. This is due to the lack of capacity and resources to undertake these works and the agreed core standards that take priority. The District Council can occasionally receive criticism for not completing some of these works.
- 2.2 The District Council is seeking for Ward Members to prioritise projects or areas within their Wards to form part of our Community Payback Scheme for the first year. See Appendix 2, application form for Ward Members to complete.
- 2.3 Officers will prioritise the application forms to select 10 of these priority areas for the Community Payback Scheme to undertake the necessary works required over a 12 month period. This will allow Officers to monitor the success of the scheme over this period. If there is any underspend after work has been completed within the 10 priority areas officers will prioritise the remaining applications.
- 2.4 We plan to work closely with the CRC to maximise the most out of the prioritised projects. The offenders will be closely monitored by their supervisor and will be provided with the tools to complete the works allocated.

Work Placement

- 2.5 CRC also offer individual placements to offenders where they carry out their hours within a team in a Local Authority or other organisations. There is no charge to the organisation for these placements.
- 2.6 We would look to trial this option to build capacity within our day-to-day teams. The offender on placement would shadow other employees in the Clean & Green Team and assist on works such as street cleansing and grounds maintenance.
- 2.7 We will work with CRC to ensure all necessary checks and risks assessments are completed to ensure safety of the offender, staff and public.

Offenders

- 2.8 The offenders who are on the Community Payback Scheme will have committed minor offences such as drink driving or unpaid fines. The offenders have not been sentenced to prison and have been to Magistrates Court as opposed to Crown Court.

- 2.9 The offenders are supervised at all times by a probation officer, 1:8 ratio and the supervisor is there to assist, motivate and support the offenders.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The relevant Ward Members and Local Council will be consulted on the proposed scheme, after the committee decision.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

Legal

- 4.1 The CRC carry out all risk assessment, provides the equipment and holds it insurance, therefore the likelihood of a legal claim for damages due to an accident against the Council, while working on a Council project is low.

Financial

- 4.2 The estimated cost of the scheme is £6,000. There is no current revenue budget so Members' approval is sought for a supplementary revenue budget of £6,000, to be financed from the General Reserve. The financial risk is assessed as low.

5 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

6 CONTACT INFORMATION

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7 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<https://dlncrc.co.uk/community-payback/>

CRC website

8 ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix 1 - Ward Member application form
- Appendix 2 - Parwich Parish Council case study