

OPERATIONAL BOARD
9 June 2022

ITEM A6

Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP) Grant 2022 – 2023

Report of the Head of Housing Management.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To conditionally grant fund the Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP) at the annual level of £7,400 for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023.
- 1.2 To support the continuation of an earmarked fund from the Customer Engagement and Community Development budget for additional projects. Due to the group reaffirming their governance structure and documentation, their spend is currently behind schedule. It is recommended to approve an initial amount of £10,000 for 2022/23, followed by a further £10,000 on completion of the initial spend. The approval for this spend will be delegated to the Managing Director of Derby Homes and the Vice Chair of the Operational Board.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Subject to consent from Derby City Council and based on the conditions outlined in the Terms of Reference, approval for Derby Homes to award a grant in the sum £7,400 to the DACP for the financial year 2022/23.
- 2.2 Subject to consent from Derby City Council, Derby Homes provisionally earmarks the initial £10,000, with the further £10,000 funding in 2022/23 to the DACP, subject to Managing Director of Derby Homes and Vice Chair of the Operational Board approval.

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To enable the DACP to fulfil their role supporting the interests of customers and communities within Derby.

4. MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP Ltd) is a voluntary tenant federation that exists to coordinate all community related issues in Derby, by creating a joint voice for any organisation or group that has a relationship with a housing provider in the city.

- 4.2 The DACP have a working relationship with Derby Homes, who were set up in 2002 by the City Council as an arm's length management organisation and is the largest provider of social housing in Derby with about 12,500 properties.
- 4.3 The DACP has excellent, national recognition and representation as members of TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service), TAROE (Tenants and Residents of England) and regularly work with other housing providers and tenant federations across the country.
- 4.4 The main business of the DACP is bringing individuals together to help provide sustainable communities, through co-ordinating the aspirations within the partnership. This will be done by working in conjunction with Derby Homes and Derby City Council, where the Partnership will be a community resource of knowledge, support, and networking. The DACP are in the fortunate opportunity to also manage funding grants for community groups, voluntary or not for profit organisations who deliver services within city, that benefits the local community and Derby Homes customers.
- 4.5 Over the last year, the DACP have undergone some governance changes and are in the process of reviewing their documentation and undertaking training, to ensure they remain in the best position to serve the communities of Derby. Since the last year, the group have:
- Fully reviewed their Terms of Reference
 - Introduced a Confidentiality Statement
 - Created a new email address, accessed only by members of the DACP
 - Drafted a Code of Conduct to be introduced later in the year.

Their latest memorandum and articles have been updated on Companies House since June 2021. The group are now reviewing and working on their governance funding criteria to ensure grants are consistent and fair to allow the smooth running of the process.

- 4.6 Currently the DACP have 9 active members, who have overcome the challenges of the Covid -19 pandemic, and its long-term impacts such as the changing sources of funding applications, hybrid meetings and long-standing members resigning due to health conditions. The Partnership are dedicated to future recruitment and developing their independence by working with other community organisations and raising their profile, not only as funders, but also as a community resource.
- 4.7 The following table outlines the grant applications from 2021/22 that have been considered this year as part of their community initiatives.

4.8

Funding Applications		
Name of Group	Amount applied for	Amount Agreed for
Derby County Community	£1,175	£660
John Manley- Coffee Morning Group	£2,250	£1,350
Sporting Communities	£300	£300
The Next Gen Intelligence Academy CIC	£2,478	£1,000
Project Derby - Pantry	£2,500	£2,500
New Life Derby - School Wear Assistance Project	£2,500	£2,500
New Life Derby - Easter Parade	£2,500	£1,500
Derby County Community Trust	£2,500	£2,500
Derby Sprout	£2,500	£2,500
Community room users	£2,400	£2,400
Total amount requested (approved, or part approved)	£21,103	£17,210
Applications declined/withdrawn		
A Stitch in time	£2,964	
Aspire - Summer Programme	£1,908	
Read Easy Derby & District	£1,810	
St Peters - Lunch with Jesus	£2,000	
Staywell - Hoarding	£2,700	
Tackling Period Poverty	£2,000	
Total applications declined	£13,382	
Total amount of applications received in the year	£34,485	

- 4.9 The long-term impacts of the pandemic are reflected in the traffic of funding applications received by the DACP. The group are finding that organisations need extra time and support before being able to make funding applications, and the funding need is more varied than before. Whilst this has improved as restrictions ease, the impacts of the multiple lockdown's have interrupted the service provision.
- 4.10 Despite such obstacles, there have been some positive funding stories from applications awarded during this financial year. For example, 'the Pantry', which is a subsection of Project Derby, were awarded £2,500 for a community food bank. The money has been pivotal for turning their community food bank into a more sustainable and proactive provision of a "community pantry". The funding has supported the continued community need for this project, and in 2021 they provided 1,248 food parcels. With this funding they will bolster the provision to fully reflect and support the needs of the surrounding community whilst diversifying their food sources. Initial ideas for this include the use of a new community garden and continued local supermarket donations.

5. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Specific funding of £7,400 in 2022/23 is available from the Customer Engagement and Community Development budget for the annual DACP contribution.
- 5.2 Additionally, the Customer Engagement budget has £84,500 to allocate to various projects & initiatives in Derby.
- 5.3 It is proposed to earmark the initial £10,000 and further £10,000 of this (£84,500) budget for any future grant applications that the DACP bring forward in 2022/23.
- 5.4 The process for the proposed additional grant of up to £10,000 initial, and further £10,000, to be awarded to the DACP, to support schemes / projects coming to Derby Homes. Consideration of applications will be documented on every occasion a grant is made by the Customer Engagement and Community Development team.
- 5.5 The award will consider the merits of the application and demonstrate how it furthers Derby Homes, or communities of Derby. Grant applications after the £7,400 will be determined by Managing Director and the Vice Chair of the Operational Board. This is subject to Derby City Council allowing the further grant of £20,000 (the initial £10,000 and the further £10,000).

6. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 To continue with the usual grant of £7,400 subject to Council approval.

7. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Derby Homes Memorandum states:

“(18) Subject to the prior written consent of the City Council to make donations, grants or loans or provide services or assistance to such persons and organisations and on such terms as the Board shall think fit to further the objects of the Organisation.”

8. COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Consent is being sought and required from Derby City Council for all grant payments made.
- 8.2 Approval will be sought from Derby City Council for up to £20,000 (the initial £10,000 and the further £10,000), to grant fund the DACP. This will then enable a quick turnaround of approvals to the DACP on any grant requests that are received and approved by the Managing Director and vice chair of the Operational Board.

9. RISK

- 9.1 There is a risk that not funding the DACP would cause reputational damage to Derby Homes as the DACP have excellent, national recognition. Further to this, community groups in Derby are aware of the DACP and look towards the DACP to help enable community groups. Groups which will need support due to the impact of the coronavirus to continue to sustain through a financially difficult period and if

the Grant is not approved, the impact of this may be detrimental to the communities of Derby.

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 As an independent group, the DACP are responsible for their own equality impact assessment. The DACP perform an assessment through their due diligence checks on their application form. This is to promote equal opportunities and the applicant's duty of care to their service users. The application form asks for certain criteria to ensure that the group are supportive of the values and objectives of both the DACP and Derby Homes. This includes high level information about the group, and any policies or procedures they have in place to ensure equality and fairness. An overview of the information collected from the DACP applications is attached as Appendix 1.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Consultation
Personnel
Environmental
Health & Safety
Policy Review

For more information please contact:

Holly Johnson / Customer Engagement and Community Development Manager / 01332 888418 / Email Holly.Johnson@derbyhomes.org

Background information: None
List of appendices None

This report has been approved by the following

Managing Director	Maria Murphy	27/05/2022
Finance Director/ Company Secretary/ Derby Homes Accountant	Helen Samuel	11/05/2022
Company Solicitor	Taran Lalria	24/05/2022
Head of Service	Lorraine Testro	29/04/2022