

PUBLIC



OPERATIONAL BOARD
9 March 2023

ITEM A4

Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP) Grant 2023–2024

Report of the Head of Housing Management.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To approve to conditionally grant fund the Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP) at the annual level of £27,400 for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024.
- 1.2 This will support the continuation of an earmarked fund from the Customer Engagement and Community Development budget for additional community-based projects. During 2022/23 the group received an initial amount of £10,000, followed by a further £10,000 on completion of the initial spend. It is recommended this structure is mirrored in 2023/24. The approval for this spend will be delegated to the Managing Director of Derby Homes and the Vice Chair of the Operational Board. At present the DACP are on track to spend their full budget.

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 to cover running expenses for £7,400 to the DACP for the financial year 2023/34.
- 2.2 Subject to consent from Derby City Council, Derby Homes provisionally earmarks the initial £10,000, with the further £10,000 funding in 2023/24 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 has a working relationship with Derby Homes, which was 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 works 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 position to also manage funding grants for community groups, voluntary or not for profit organisations that deliver services within the city, that benefit the local community and Derby Homes customers.
- 4.5 To ensure they remain in the best position to serve the communities of Derby, the group have:
- Introduced a Code of Conduct.
 - Worked with a graphic designer to relaunch the logo and create a website.
 - Reintroduced face-to-face meetings.
 - Undergone a review of their application paperwork, in anticipation for the next financial year.
 - Updated their latest accounts and articles have been updated on Companies House since December 2022.

The group are now reviewing their governance funding criteria to ensure grants are consistent and applications have a smoother transition when grants are awarded. Roles and responsibilities have been redelegated within the group to maintain efficiency.

- 4.6 Currently the DACP have 5 active members, who have overcome the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic whilst adapting to the more recent Cost of Living Crisis. The Partnership is 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 2022/23 that have been considered this year as part of their community initiatives.

4.8

Funding Applications		
Name of Group	Amount applied for	Amount Agreed
Derwent Scout Club	£1,050	£1,050
Rykneld Bowling Club	£480	£480
St Anne's Church	£5,000	£2,500
Project Derby	£2,700	£2,700
Renew Stocky	£1,049	£1,049
Togs Clothing	£500	£500
Mickleover Girls' Football Club	£450	£450
Christmas Lunch on Jesus (CLOJ)	£2,000	£2,000
King's Coronation Community Support (12 groups)	£4,800	£4,800
Total amount requested (approved, or part approved)	£18,029	£15,529
Applications declined/withdrawn		
Influence and Aspire	£2,500	
Renew Stocky	£138	
Chellaston Community Centre	£3,000	
GLFF	£2,500	
Derby City Mission	£2,500	
Total applications declined	£10,638	
Total amount of applications received in the year	£26,167	

- 4.9 The Cost of Living Crisis is reflected in the traffic of funding applications received by the DACP. Over the past year the group has seen an increase in applications for the provision of hot food, warm spaces, debt advice. The group are building positive working relationships with partner organisations such as Food 4 Thought and Community Action Derby to ensure funding is not duplicated. The tightening of duplication is part of the application review the group are undertaking.
- 4.10 The DACP have seen positive funding stories from applications awarded during this financial year. For example, Project Derby, were awarded £2,700 for a polytunnel in their community allotment. This enabled them to continue growing food during the winter months, providing fresh fruit and vegetables for their community pantry and food parcels. The funds also helped partially fund a large fridge-freezer, aiding the group to offer fresh, perishable foods. This has been a valued success within the community and offers health benefits for people in need. The funding has supported the continued community demand for this project. In 2022 they provided, on average, 100 food parcels per week.

5. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Specific funding of £7,400 in 2023/24 is available from the Customer Engagement and Community Development budget for an 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 2023/24.
- 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 both the DACP and 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 Derby Homes' 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 has 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. As part of Derby Homes' and Derby City Council's

stronger communities, groups will need support due to the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis, to continue to sustain through a financially difficult period. If the grant is not approved, this would go against our organisational objectives and the impact of this will 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 safeguarding, 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:

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Background information: None
List of appendices Appendix 1 – DACP Funding Applicants Equalities Impact 2022-23

This report has been approved by the following

Finance Director	Michael Kirk	27.02.2023
Company Solicitor	Taranjit Lalria	28.02.2023
Head of Service	Carl Tring-Willis	13.02.2023