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| Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee | Agenda Item |
| 12 June 2023 | 7 |

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| Title: | Community Homes Grant Applications |
| Report of: | Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment |
| Public Report: | Yes |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Voting Arrangements: | Choose from the following: A simple majority of voting Members |

Recommendations:

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| A | To award a grant of £15,000 to support a community homes proposal in Great Staughton. |
| B | To decline an application for a community homes grant of £5,335 received from Suvanna Cohousing Ltd to support a community homes proposal in north Cambridge. |
| C | To decline an application for a community homes grant of £57,494 received from It Takes a City Community Land Trust to support a proposal to provide accommodation for homeless people at Hills Avenue, Cambridge. |
| D | To decline an application for a community homes grant of £29,654 received from It Takes a City Community Land Trust to support a proposal to provide accommodation for homeless people at Fen Ditton. |

Strategic Objective(s):

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| The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s): | |
| 1.1 | Achieving good growth by contributing towards delivery of 900+ homes by 2025. |

1. Purpose

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| 1.1 | To consider four applications for community homes support grants that were received in May 2023. |
| 1.2 | It is recommended that the Combined Authority awards one grant application and declines three applications that officers consider fail to comply with necessary grant assessment criteria. |

2. Proposal

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| 2.1 | The four grant applications received by the Combined Authority received for community homes support funding are summarised below: |
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| Applicant | Proposed scheme | Grant amount | Officer recommendation |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Great Staughton CLT | Gt. Staughton | £15,000 | Award grant |
| Suvanna Cohousing | North Cambridge | £5,335 | Decline – application fails to demonstrate deliverability |
| It takes a City CLT | Hills Avenue, Cambridge | £57,494 | Decline – application fails to protect the benefits of the scheme in perpetuity. |
| It takes a City CLT | Fen Ditton | £29,654 | Decline – application fails to protect the benefits of the scheme in perpetuity. |

Information relevant to each application can be found appended to this paper.

3. Background

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| 3.1 | <p>On 27 January 2021 the Combined Authority’s Board approved a community homes business case that included the provision of £5,000 community homes start-up grants to support emerging community-led housing groups.</p> <p>On 10 January 2022 the Housing and Communities Committee approved the current Community Homes Strategy and Eastern Community Homes (ECH) were appointed to provide a support service to community homes groups. The arrangement excluded providing support to community homes groups within East Cambridgeshire as these groups are supported directly by officers from East Cambridgeshire District Council.</p> <p>On 7 October 2022 the Housing and Communities Committee approved a proposal to allocate funding of £100,000 to provide further support to established community led housing groups across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Applications for grant funding were to be assessed against criteria that can be found at Appendix A.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>Eastern Community Homes (ECH) received and reviewed each of the grant applications.</p> <p>Officers then reviewed each application against the grant assessment criteria, and the recommendations before Members are derived from these officer reviews.</p> <p>The reviews can be found within the appendices.</p> |

4. Appendices

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| 4.1 | <p>Appendix A – Grant assessment criteria</p> <p>Appendix B – Application reviews</p> |
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Implications

Financial Implications

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| 5.1 | The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023 – 2027 approved by Board in January 2023 includes budget of £70K per annum for community housing projects until 2025/26. There is a further £50K available for 2023/24 that would include the cost of renewing the arrangement with ECH for the financial year. |
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Legal Implications

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| 6.1 | The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251). When awarding the grant funding CPCA will need to ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. |
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Public Health Implications

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| 7.1 | The proposal does not raise any public health implications. |
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

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| 8.1 | The proposal does not raise any public health implications. |
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Other Significant Implications

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| 9.1 | N/A |
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Background Papers

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| 10.1 | 27 Jan 2021 Board 10 Jan 2022 Cttee 7 Oct 2022 Cttee |
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