

 <p>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p><b>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</b></p>
<p>Name and date of Committee</p>	<p><b>WESTHIVE PLEDGE REVIEW GROUP TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2026 AT 10:30AM</b></p>
<p>Subject</p>	<p><b>WESTHIVE ROUND 6 SPRING 2026 PLEDGE DETERMINATIONS</b></p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Accountable member</p>	<p>Community Grants: Cllr Rachel Crouch – Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities. Email: <a href="mailto:rachel.crouch@westoxon.gov.uk">rachel.crouch@westoxon.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>Accountable officer</p>	<p>Community Grants : Phil Martin – Director of Place. Email: <a href="mailto:phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk">phil.martin@westoxon.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>Report author</p>	<p>Heather McCulloch – Community Wellbeing Manager Email: <a href="mailto:heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk">heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>Summary/Purpose</p>	<p>To consider submissions to the fourth round of Westhive and determine pledge levels for the Council’s main Westhive fund.</p>
<p>Annexes</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Recommendation(s)</p>	<p>That the Westhive Pledge Review group resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommend to the Chief Executive pledges be made as set out in 4)</li> </ol> <p>And</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Approve that final determinations as explained in the report and summarised in 4) are made by the Chief Exec in consultation with the Leader of the Council.</li> </ol>
<p>Corporate priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting Residents First</li> <li>• A Good Quality of Life for All</li> <li>• Creating a Better Environment for People and Wildlife</li> <li>• Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency</li> <li>• Working Together for West Oxfordshire</li> </ul>

Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	<p>Westhive: Decision to be made by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Members for Stronger Healthy Communities, Environment, Climate Action and Nature Recovery.</p> <p>In addition, officers reviewed the project funding bids and potential pledges ahead of the report being prepared.</p>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In March 2023, the Executive agreed to commission Spacehive Ltd to create a Westhive 'movement' on its civic crowdfunding platform. This movement enables local people to promote ideas for civic projects and to raise money from local supporters, including the Council. The Round 6 project creators pitch deadline was 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026. There are currently 14 verified projects, 12 of which are actively fundraising on the Westhive platform.
- 1.2 Please visit <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/westhive/projects> to view the live campaigns.
- 1.3 At this meeting the panel will only consider pitches to the Westhive main Council fund as the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) has been fully allocated in previous rounds.

## **2. BUDGET AVAILABILITY**

- 2.1 Since its introduction, Westhive has enabled the distribution of £139,373 of the Council's main Westhive fund and £307,060 of the CIF fund.
- 2.2 The remaining available budget for Round 6 in the Council's main Westhive fund is £81,844.51. This includes £15,122.51 of unallocated funds from the Community Activity Grant.
- 2.3 Criteria states that the maximum amount that can be awarded from the Council's main Westhive Fund is £12,000 or 75% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount. This fund can support capital or revenue projects.
- 2.4 It was determined in Round 4 that an award of £8,000 be awarded from the Westhive main Council fund to Hanborough Playing Fields Association, subject to them being able to secure planning permission, provide full costings to the Council of the project and evidence funds being in place to deliver full refurbishment scheme valued at approximately £2m. All permissions have been ascertained, and the project creator has resubmitted the bid to reflect the reduced cost detailed in the original bid. We are just waiting for the project creator to respond to some questions from the verification team at Spacehive for them to be in a position to receive the awarded amount.
- 2.5 When arriving at the recommendations officers have sought to prioritise projects based on the following factors:
  - Relevance to Council aims.
  - Benefit of the project.
  - Number of pledges.
  - Relation to other projects.
  - Value for money/potential impact.
- 2.6 The officers' recommendations are summarised in 4.

## **3. PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The following projects have pitched for support on Westhive. Each pitch on the website starts with a slightly longer summary of the project, before then addressing appraisal

questions. The up-to-date number of supporters, and funding raised, will be shared at the meeting, to inform the Council's pledge decision.

### **3.1.1 Chipping Norton Theatre Arts For Elders - Chipping Norton Theatre**

Chipping Norton Theatre, a registered charity, has launched a **£21,208** campaign to create and deliver a sustainable programme of cultural and creative participatory work, with and for, the growing older rural community to combat isolation and improve health and wellbeing.

Chipping Norton Theatre is more than just a theatre, they provide artistic programmes that support the rural community. The central commitment of their community programme is to build long-term relationships and to transform lives through culture and creativity. The community has an ageing population that needs better provision of stimulating creative and social activities. From Spring 2026 and in partnership with local organisations, they seek to begin an expansion of their impactful arts-led community activities to devise and deliver a pilot project that will engage with over 100 older people to offer cultural and creative participatory activities.

The campaign focus is to fund a part-time member of staff to oversee the new programme, 18 testing sessions, marketing and improvements to the building. It is worth noting that they are also a current SLA partner organisation.

There are 3 pledges totalling £10,454 on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£8,000**

### **3.1.2 Community Clubhouse Revamp Initiative – West Witney sports and social club**

West Witney sports and social club, an unincorporated group, has launched a **£15,406** campaign to raise funds to fully equip the newly refurbished clubhouse with essential furniture and items, creating a welcoming space for the local community.

West Witney sports and social club is a community sports hub that supports a wide range of physical activities including football, cricket, tennis, running and bowls for all ages and levels. The clubhouse also offers facilities for meetings, events, and live sport viewing, strengthening community connection and participation. The renovation of the space brings with it an opportunity to expand the use of the space itself by the wider community. By providing a functional and comfortable environment, they intend to foster social interaction, support community activities, and cater to people of all ages.

The campaign focus is the purchase furniture, TV/AV system, projector and coffee machine that will enable the clubhouse to serve as a hub for events, meetings, and recreational activities, promoting inclusivity and strengthening community bonds.

There are currently 65 pledges totalling £5,490 on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£6,000**

### **3.1.3 Counselling for young people in Witney – Aspire Oxfordshire**

Aspire Oxfordshire, a registered charity, has launched a **£14,635** campaign to provide a counsellor to support young people navigate anxiety, depression, and the difficult circumstances they are facing so they can engage fully with they can take full advantage of Aspire's employment, training, and education (ETE) offer.

Aspire has been tackling the most complex social issues in Oxfordshire for over 20 years. They support local people into and towards employment and housing, as the most powerful way to break cycles of homelessness, re-offending and poverty. Aspire's Witney Hub focuses on supporting young people aged 18-25. Marginalised young people can access wellbeing sessions to improve their resilience and self-esteem. The hub offers courses on topics such as mental health and communication, helping young people develop important skills in a safe communal space and also delivers employment, training, and education advice.

The campaign focus is to fund the counsellor for 12 months, working 2 days a week.

There are 26 pledges totalling £1,245 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£7,320**

### **3.1.4 Creating Orchards for People and Wildlife - Long Mead Foundation and Nature Recovery Network**

Long Mead Foundation and Nature Recovery Network, a registered charity, has launched a **£20,448** for a weekly training course and mentoring in inclusive community orchard management and wildflower meadow creation for up to 15 West Oxfordshire communities, to support WODC Coronation Community Orchard Project. Communities interested so far are Clanfield, Shilton, Bampton, Burford School, Chipping Norton, Finstock, Hailey, Woodstock, Wootton, Eynsham and Dunthrop farms.

Long Mead Foundation supports the work of the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project (TVWMP) and the work of Nature Recovery Network (NRN), an Oxfordshire Community Action Group. Its aim is to support bottom-up nature recovery in villages in West Oxfordshire, and at the landscape-scale in the wider countryside.

The campaign focus is to raise funds to cover costs associated with the programme delivery and planting. During this programme, community members will take part in weekly sessions from April to November at Long Mead, growing wildflower plants from locally gathered seed while learning orchard management and the practical steps of creating and sustaining meadows. The programme also demonstrates how to run an inclusive, low-cost community propagation initiative that uses recycled materials, supports people with additional needs, and produces zero-miles compost.

Long Mead Foundation and Nature Recovery Network have successfully campaigned for two projects through Westhive in previous rounds, securing funding from both the Westhive main fund and Community Infrastructure Fund. These projects were the Community-led meadow creation in W Oxon which received £30,313, and the Community floodplain restoration W Oxon project which received £12,613 from WODC.

There are 29 pledges totalling £4,051 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£10,000**. The amount the project will receive from the Defra Coronation Living Heritage Fund for the Coronation Community Orchard Project will be confirmed by 25 March. The Westhive award may be reduced to ensure the project is not overfunded.

### **3.1.5 Village Hall Loo Refurbishment Appeal – Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall**

Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall Charity has launched a **£15,833** campaign to upgrade the toilet facilities of the Village Hall.

Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall is a central hub and has been at the heart of village life for generations. They would like to bring the toilet facilities into the 21st Century with modern fittings, new loos, basins and hand-dryers, to make them much more pleasant to use and to bring them into keeping with the newly refurbished kitchen, hall, electrics and heating.

The campaign focus is install two new refurbished bathrooms in the hall which includes tiling, flooring, new vanity cubicles and sanitary wear. The first phase of this project received support via Westhive in Round 4 - £6,033 from the Westhive main fund and £4,001 from CIF. The second phase of the project received support via Westhive in Round 5 - £10,000 from the Westhive main fund and £10970 from CIF. Totalling £31,004 received in the last two rounds.

There are currently 45 pledges totalling £3,383 on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£3,958**

### **3.1.6 Carterton Food Angels-replace missing garage roof – Carterton Food Angels**

Carterton Food Angels, a registered charity, has launched a **£16,958** campaign to replace the roof for the garage which is where they currently store provisions.

Carterton Food Angels, is a food bank based in Carterton that provides balanced food parcels to those in need within the community and run a community hub providing hot food to residents every Wednesday.

The campaign focus is to replace the existing roof of the garage, which is currently used to store essential supplies, and has suffered significant damage with 75% of the roof destroyed due to severe storms. Without repair, supplies are at risk of spoilage, leading to unnecessary costs.

There are 21 pledges totalling £440 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£6,000**

### **3.1.7 Build Hanborough Community Cricket Net – Hanborough Cricket Club**

Hanborough Cricket Club, a community group, has launched a **£30,438** campaign to raise funds for a permanent cricket net to improve community access to sport, active lifestyles and support a new junior programme.

Hanborough Cricket Club has made a strong recovery since Covid, growing from only a handful of active players to two thriving senior teams aged 18-70 years old, and becoming an important hub for the local community. Recent investment in essential equipment has supported this progress, but the club still lacks key facilities such as permanent nets. Further investment is now crucial to enable the development of junior and women's cricket and to help the Club reach its full potential.

The campaign focus is to raise funds for a new permanent cricket net, spring back stumps and signage as the club take their biggest step forward by launching their first youth programme through the ECB All Stars Scheme, with growing interest in junior and women's cricket. A permanent, safe, all-weather cricket net would transform what the club can offer. It would be open not just to club members, but to the wider community - giving young people, families and casual players a free, local space to be active, or simply enjoy sport in a welcoming environment.

There are 132 pledges totalling £15,787 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£6,000**

### **3.1.8 Reviving Tiddy Hall: Community Stage - Tiddy Hall**

Tiddy Hall, a registered charity, has launched a **£11,272** campaign to transform the hall into a community arts hub with a new stage, supporting drama, preschool, folk club, stage school, and hosting events to engage all generations in the village.

Tiddy Hall was first established as a village hall in 1912 and subsequently rebuilt in 1994.

The hall can accommodate 150 people and is well used by clubs and societies as well as sports such as pickleball, badminton, Pilates and other core fitness classes every week. It is used by the local folk club and for the village preschool. They also have a mobile post office every Friday afternoon.

The campaign focus is to raise funds to remove the current stage and install a new stage and new fire-resistant theatre curtains. The groups aims to relaunch the village pantomime, bringing it back after a decade. This project will also enhance the hall's usability for the thriving folk club, preschool activities, and the Cotswold stage school.

There are currently 12 pledges totalling £2,420 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£2,819**

### **3.1.9 Support local community transport now! – First and Last Mile**

First and Last Mile, a Community Interest Company, has launched a **£12,199** campaign to create better community transport connecting rural West Oxfordshire villages filling in the gaps going into Witney.

First & Last Mile provides essential bus services to communities with little or no public transport, aiming to ensure everyone has access to at least one bus per week. With local drivers and close community relationships, it helps reduce social exclusion and supports people of all ages and circumstances to have access to Witney and maintain their independence. Working collaboratively and embracing innovation, First and Last Mile

develops sustainable routes that strengthen community wellbeing and can eventually be handed over to mainstream operators.

The campaign focus is to raise funding for a new weekly shopper service they have taken on which runs from Buckland to Witney serving Bampton, Clanfield, Curbridge & Lew, Grafton & Radcot, Northmoor, South Leigh, Standlake, Stanton Harcourt. The funding will cover operating costs of this service, including wages, bus maintenance, fuel and depot contributions.

There are currently 20 pledges totalling £ 773 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£6,100**

### **3.1.10 Witney Support for Sexual Violence Survivors - Survivor Space Oxfordshire**

Survivor Space Oxfordshire, a registered charity, has launched a **£15,286** campaign to providing free, accessible, specialised face-to-face counselling, advocacy, emotional support in Witney for survivors of sexual violence, removing rural barriers and addressing local rising demand.

Survivor Space Oxfordshire is a small local charity providing free, accredited trauma-informed counselling, advocacy, and support groups for survivors of sexual abuse, rape, and harassment. Their team supports people of all ages and genders, whether their experiences were recent, historic, or occurred in childhood. With 1 in 4 women, 1 in 6 children, and 1 in 18 men affected by sexual violence, their staff and volunteers are committed to providing safe, specialist support to everyone who needs it.

The campaign focus is to establish a satellite hub in Witney to provide free, specialist support and counselling for survivors of sexual violence in West Oxfordshire. This hub will allow survivors to access trauma-informed, face-to-face services within their own community, reducing travel barriers that are particularly challenging in rural areas and improving access for seldom-heard groups and those facing multiple inequalities. Previous satellite hubs in Didcot and Banbury have demonstrated that creating local service bases significantly increases engagement. To deliver the Witney hub, Survivor Space Oxfordshire requires funding and resources to secure suitable premises, recruit and train additional counsellors, and ensure effective management.

There are currently 0 pledges on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£6,000**

### **3.1.11 Support the Witney Community Fridge - Witney Food Revolution**

Witney Food Revolution, a community action group, has launched a **£9,389** campaign to continue their operation to distribute food surplus to people in need, reducing food waste and addressing the pressing issue of food insecurity and poverty in the community.

Witney Food Revolution works to bridge the gap between food waste and hunger by redistributing surplus food to local people in need. In 2025 they distributed 160 tonnes of surplus food to 34,000 visitors across the year. Powered by over 80 volunteers, the organisation partners with supermarkets, national brands, food groups, food banks, and

community centres to ensure that fresh, nutritious food reaches individuals and families across Witney and the surrounding areas. Founded on the belief that everyone deserves access to good food while reducing waste, Witney Food Revolution represents a community working together to improve lives and protect the planet.

The campaign focus is to raise funds to meet the demand which is at an all time high, and are looking for contributions towards room hire, consumables, insurance and software to support project and volunteer management.

There is currently 1 pledge of £400 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officer recommendation: Westhive fund: **£3,755** Officers to express councillors wishes for the fund to be put towards the project as a whole, and not be used solely for rent.

### **3.1.12 West Oxfordshire Playdays 2026 - Oxfordshire Play Association**

Oxfordshire Play Association, a registered charity, has launched a **£2,972** campaign to raise funds for a series of Play and Activity days at multiple venues across Oxfordshire in line with the ethos of National Playday, the celebration of the Childs Right to Play.

The Oxfordshire Play Association delivers countywide services across Oxfordshire and has done since 1974. From 2012 to 2025 inclusive they have delivered over 160 events across Oxfordshire which have been attended by over 170,000 'guests'. It's mission is to champion and support the rights of all children and young people to access high-quality, inclusive play opportunities that enhance their physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing.

They deliver work across three main areas; Play Projects, including Playday events such as the ones outlined in their pitch. Play Training and Support Services.

The campaign focus is to deliver 3 Playday events across West Oxfordshire RAF Brize Norton / Carterton, Eynsham, and Witney that are free entry, with free activity to make sure they are inclusive for all. The costs are for go karting and first aid at the events.

Oxfordshire Play Association has received £2,347 from a previous round of Westhive to fund similar activities.

There are currently 1 pledge of £750 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officers recommendation: Westhive Fund: **£743**

### **3.1.13 Safe Under One Roof – Completing the Big Fish Work - Big Fish Farm Community Interest Company**

Big Fish Farm Community Interest Company has launched a **£7,055** campaign to replace the leaking roof and deteriorating doors of their on-site workshop to create a safe, secure and weatherproof year-round skills space.

Big Fish Project provides farm-based therapeutic placements for children and adults in West Oxfordshire who struggle in mainstream settings, including those with autism, ADHD and mental health challenges. Through farm work, woodwork, animal care and hands-on projects, participants build confidence, life skills and emotional resilience within predictable, small-group routines. The organisation works closely with schools, families and professionals to offer preventative, safeguarding-led support that helps individuals

re-engage positively with learning. Their workshop is central to delivering structured woodwork and practical skills sessions that build confidence, resilience and emotional regulation.

There are currently 18 pledges totalling £681 on 9th March 2026.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officers recommendation: Westhive Fund: **£3,528** Officers have confirmed there is a maintenance and repair lease in place.

### **3.1.14 Bampton Recreation Ground - The Future! - Bampton Recreation Ground Trust**

Bampton Recreation Ground Trust, a registered charity, has launched a **£14,448** campaign to expand and improve the Recreation Ground. Specifically, to create a lit pedestrian access.

Bampton Recreation Ground Trust is Bampton Recreation Ground Trust has been a registered charity for over 30 years. The Trustees are the same as Bampton Parish Council, which runs and funds the Trust. The Parish Council (PC) is now raising funds for the refurbishment and will oversee the project. As a result of recent house building in the village, the PC has been given some S106 money earmarked for the development of sport. S106 money is only available for specifically new sports and play and cannot be used for general landscaping and lighting, hence the application to secure a grant to create safe pedestrian access.

At the time of scoring, this project was still undergoing verification and awaiting the project creator's acceptance of the terms and conditions.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officers recommendation: Westhive Fund: **£4334.40**, subject to Officers confirming with the S106 team that funding cannot be used for lighting and clarifying with the Planning team that appropriate planning permission is in place for the lighting.

### **3.1.15 HUSK : Heritage and Unique Seed Ko-op - Glyme Valley CIC**

Glyme Valley CIC, a Community Interest Company, has launched a **£25,435** campaign to unite 12 historic walled gardens in Glyme Valley to create a resilient seed bank that safeguards biodiversity, cultural heritage, and ecological resilience against climate challenges. Glyme Valley CIC is based in Hook Norton Oxfordshire. They are working on a number of projects local to the Glyme Valley including Quaking Grass Conservation and HUSK (Heritage and Unique Seed Ko-op). The organisation is also working on a regional renewables project funded by DESNZ for local community-owned energy infrastructures. The Glyme Valley Seed Bank Initiative unites 12 historic walled gardens in Oxfordshire to establish a distributed and resilient seed bank, safeguarding biodiversity and the cultural heritage of the region. Drawing from centuries-old traditions of botanical stewardship, the project integrates the unique legacies of Jacobean and Tudor estates with modern conservation efforts. By celebrating the valley's 'Parks and Valleys' identity, the initiative fosters ecological resilience while addressing pressing challenges like climate change and food security. This collaborative community effort ensures the preservation of the area's

rich botanical history, creating a sustainable living repository that bridges natural and cultural heritage.

The campaign focus is to raise funds to cover x10 training days from Garden Organic, x2 community based events, administrative support, as well as communications and marketing.

At the time of scoring, this project was still undergoing verification, an explanation will be provided during the meeting.

The project has pitched to the Westhive fund.

Officers recommendation: Westhive Fund: **£8,000** the funding from the Council is to be used solely for activity in West Oxfordshire.

#### 4. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Project creator	Revenue &/or Capital	Score (50 max)	Project total target	Pledges – Number / Value	Funds raised at 09-03-26	Officer recommend Westhive
Chipping Norton Theatre	REV/CAP	45	£21,208	3	£10,454	£8,000
West Witney sports and social club	CAP	35	£15,406	65	£5,490	£6,000
Aspire Oxfordshire	REV	40	£14,635	26	£1,245	£7,320
Long Mead Foundation and Nature Recovery Network	REV/CAP	45	£20,448	29	£4,051	£10,000
Churchill & Sarsden Village Hall	CAP	25	£15,833	45	£3,383	£ 3,958
Carterton Food Angels	CAP	30	£16,958	11	£198	£6,000
Hanborough Cricket Club	CAP	35	£30,438	132	£15,787	£6,000
Tiddy Hall	CAP	20	£11,272	12	£2,420	£2,819
First & Last Mile CIC	REV	25	£12,199	20	£773	£6,100
Survivor Space Oxfordshire	CAP/REV	35	£15,286	0	0	£6,000
Witney Food Revolution	CAP	35	£9,389	1	400	£3,755
Oxfordshire Play Association	CAP	25	£2,972	1	£750	£743
Big Fish	CAP	40	£7,055	18	£681	£3,528
Bampton Recreation Ground Trust	CAP	30	£14,448	0	0	£4334.40
Glyme Valley CIC	CAP/REV	40	£25,435	0	0	£8,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>£232,982</b>		<b>£43,305</b>	<b>£82,557.40</b>

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 5.1 The Chief Executive could decide not to fund at the levels recommended above and instead refer the matter for further consultation with the Executive. This would necessitate a further review group meeting and delay determinations.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 At the time that the Council determines a pledge a project is actively fundraising. The project may still need to raise further funds to reach its campaign target after the Council has made a pledge. Should the project not achieve the target set the Council's main Westhive Fund pledges will not be payable.
- 6.2 The recommendations above if approved would distribute £82,557.40. The remaining budget for the Council's main Westhive Fund 2025/6 is £81,844.50. The additional resources can be found from existing budgets. It is important to note however that we do expect to be able to reduce the total amount of funding being distributed by the Council once the decision in relation to the Long Mead application is known.
- 6.3 The recommended pledge for each project is calculated on the day of the pledge meeting and is determined after consideration of the up-to-date position of each projects fundraising. This ensures the most appropriate level of funding and avoids as far as possible overfunding. All pledges will be calculated to remain within the available budget.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 All applications have been verified by Spacehive, to ensure that they meet criteria and are appropriate to launch on a civic crowdfunding platform. Officers review each project, request further information as required and undertake an initial review, scoring each project. An officer panel has undertaken an initial review of the projects and supporting material prior to being reviewed by a member panel. This process provides a number of levels of scrutiny and seeks to act with fairness and balance to guard against improper use of Council funding and allegations of bias from project creators.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 This verification process ensures that pitches will only be made by eligible applicants. While this process prevents pledges being given to support ineligible activities, it cannot mitigate wholly against dissatisfaction where projects are unsuccessful in reaching their targets.
- 8.2 While the Council's grant fund is within the Council's control, projects will also need to attract sufficient funding to reach their campaign targets from other supporters by their campaign deadlines. While this is a feature of crowdfunding, it may impact on take-up - projects the Council determines to support today potentially not meeting their targets and thus not drawing down grants.

**8.3** Where pledges are drawn down, but change of circumstances prevent activity taking place, Spacehive have procedures in place to seek the return of pledges. The Council maintains its discretion not to recover the grant where alternative or more limited activity could still take place.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**9.1** The scheme has been designed to be open to geographical communities and communities of interest. The range of projects that have come forward to this fourth round is to a degree testament to this, as projects cover a range of very different activities, from different communities of geography and interest across the district.

## **10. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

**10.1** All projects have been asked to consider climate change, and any activity they could undertake to help mitigate its impacts. Positive actions to address climate change will be encouraged.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**11.1** None

(END)