Subject: Notice of Motion – Rural and Urban Capital Improvements Grant Scheme

Lead Member/Portfolio Holder: Councillor Cargill

Summary

The Cabinet has been asked by the Council to consider a Motion in the names of Councillor Richards and Councillor Lawton in respect of a grants scheme for rural and urban capital improvements as presented to the Council meeting on 25 February 2019.

Recommendation

To consider the Motion and submit an appropriate recommendation(s) to the Council.

1. Background /Information

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor Lawton:

*It has long been the impression of rural Parish Councils that Stratford District Council has a tendency to focus its financial spend on projects in the main market towns of the district while neglecting the rural areas.*

*Parish Councils work hard to maintain and improve their Parishes but sufficient funding is not always available to them without a significant increase in their precept.*

*Whilst the Community Infrastructure Levy, introduced by this Council in 2018, is a helpful source of funding for major infrastructure projects, the possibility for Parish Councils to apply for funding, particularly those in Green Belt areas, is limited unless they accommodate significant housing growth.*

*Council therefore requests that The Cabinet consider, as soon as practically possible, the possibility of introducing a Rural and Urban Capital Improvements Grant Scheme which would give grants of up to £25,000 to locally led and run, not-for-profit, community organisations towards capital projects such as:*

- Building repairs and construction
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy technology; insulation, LED lighting, solar panels, heat pumps, boilers
- Disabled access / facilities
- Resurfacing; car-parks, sports courts, play areas
- New facilities; kitchens, toilets
• New equipment; playgrounds, machinery

Applications to the scheme should be permitted for any organisation within a Parish but will require the financial support of the Parish/Town Council to enable such projects to be considered.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, the Chairman reported that the Motion, having been proposed and seconded, would be referred to The Cabinet for consideration and report without debate.

2. Options open to The Cabinet

Having had the Motion referred to it, the following options are open to The Cabinet:

a) To consider the content of the Motion at the meeting without the benefit of a report from the officers on the implications to The Council of accepting or rejecting the Motion;

b) To defer consideration of the Motion to await reports from the officers to the next available meeting of The Cabinet; or

c) To refer the Motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and report back to The Cabinet.

Isabel Edgar Briançon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)