

Report on	Community Development - Connecting Pomeroy
Date of Meeting	7 th October 2021
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To accept additional funding from the Rural Development Programme to extend the previously approved project at the court yard parking and amenity area at Pomeroy Forest.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>As part of the development of Connecting Pomeroy a new build and trails are being developed at Pomeroy Forest. Due to the parking requirement for proposed developments at the forest, and potential at a later stage for use of the court yard buildings, an additional car park and amenity area is required.</p> <p>At P&R committee meeting of 1st July 2021 it was agreed that Council accept an award of funding of £93,750 from DAERA as part of the Rural Development Programme underspend. It was agreed at this time to match this funding by 25% and a contribution of £31,250 was approved to allow a total funding investment of £125,000.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Pre-estimates at initial funding application have been reviewed in accordance with new market rates (high inflation due to Covid/ Brexit) along with changes to the works information, have indicated a higher capital investment required to deliver the scheme. MUDC Officers have been in discussion with RDP and additional funding has been made available.</p> <p>An additional £60,750 of funding has now become available due to underspend in the Rural Development Project. This again requires match funding of 25% to allow it to be utilised. A further contribution of £20,250 is required to allow the funding investment to be maximised at £81,000.</p> <p>The funding will be used for the car park and amenity site works in line with the Rural Development Programme requirements and as previously notified to Committee.</p>

	<p>It is proposed for Council to accept the additional funding of £60,750 with a match contribution of £20,250; thus contributing to an overall project investment of £206,000 to allow the scheme to be completed. The date for completion and expending the funding is 31st March 2022.</p> <p>This funding contribution will alleviate some of the pressure on the Connecting Pomeroy budget which is due to the increasing costs and inflation between the initial application in 2017 and present.</p> <p>Officers continue to work to identify areas of funding to support Council in the delivery of its agreed capital programme.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Additional funding of £60,750 with a match contribution required of Council £20,250; thus contributing to an overall project investment of £206,000 with total Council match now £51,500.</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u> None</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> None</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To accept funding from the Rural Development Programme, with match contribution, and proceed with the court yard parking and amenity area at Pomeroy Forest.</p> <p>Members approval is sought for Council to approve awarding delegated powers to the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the award of IST contractor at November 2021 Committee.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None

