

## **CABINET LEAD MEMBER DECISION MEETING – 31ST JANUARY 2019**

### **Report of the Monitoring Officer Lead Member: Councillor Taylor**

#### **Part A**

#### **ITEM 1      MEMBER GRANTS SCHEME**

##### Purpose of Report

To bring forward recommendations for an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias.

##### Recommendation

That £500 be awarded to the Stonebow Washlands Group towards various works, including installing bird boxes, planting native trees and shrubs, litter picking and wildlife surveys.

##### Reason

To approve an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the relevant Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias in connection to the organisation receiving the funding.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Member Grants Scheme was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 12th April 2018 (minute reference 116).

Under the scheme each Councillor is allocated £1,000 to fund local community projects within their ward.

Situations are now arising where Ward Councillors are considering awarding grants under the scheme to organisations they have a connection to, which under the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct may result in them having a 'personal interest which might lead to bias'.

The Member Conduct Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 17th September 2018 and was of the view that in cases where a Ward Councillor has a conflict of interest that the grant application should be referred to the Cabinet for decision.

The Leader of the Council on 2nd October 2018 allocated this Executive function to the Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing.

## Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board has been consulted and has agreed that these decisions be exempted from call-in, given their nature and low financial value.

### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

#### *Financial Implications*

The grants can be funded from within existing identified budgets.

#### *Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

#### *Comments of Monitoring Officer*

The Lead Member is being requested to make the final decision on the award of the grant in question because the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias, and therefore the advice of the Monitoring Officer is that they should not be the final decision makers.

Key Decision:	No
Background Papers:	None
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## **Part B**

### Background

1. Cllr Luke Smith is a Ward Councillor representing Loughborough Garendon, and wishes to support the award of a grant to the Stonebow Washlands Group towards various works. However, he has declared that he is the Chairman of the group. Therefore, the Cabinet Lead Member is being requested to act as the final decision maker in respect of the award of the grant.