

# Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel

**3 August 2022**

## Report

### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Beddow, Culture, Communities and Customer Services

**Local Councillor(s):** Cllr Molly Rennie, Cllr Andy Canning, Cllr Les Fry, Cllr Stella Jones, Cllr Richard Biggs

**Executive Director:** A Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

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**Report Status:** Public

#### Brief Summary:

#### 1. Executive Summary

To ensure that the panel is updated on the current grant fund of the Dorchester Car Boot Fund as of July 2022 and to ask the panel to consider opening the grant fund for 2022/23.

#### 2. Financial Implications

The Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund is financed entirely by the income from the car boot sales. The fund is currently managed and administered by officers in the Communities and Partnerships Team at Dorset Council

#### 3. Climate implications

#### **4. Other Implications**

The Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund last opened for applications in 2020.

At this time, as a result of the extraordinary and unforeseen impact of the coronavirus epidemic a total of 13 applications were received by the closing date, significantly less than in previous years (2019: 43).

The Grant awarding panel met (virtually) on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to consider the applications. A total of 11 community and voluntary organisations were successful and the total amount awarded was £13,344.

Since April 2020 the fund has remained dormant and has continued to accrue. In July 2022 the fund stood at c. £28,000. Officers from the Communities and Partnerships Team are involved in the management and administration of the fund.

#### **5. Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

The Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund is subject to auditable standards of governance. All applications are assessed against clear criteria and organisations and groups are required to submit the necessary documentation.

#### **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

Dorset Council has a statutory duty to promote equality through all of its services and expenditure, including grant aid. The funding of community based projects helps to provide a wide range of activities for all residents and support for those in need.

EQIA attached as Appendix 1

#### **7. Appendices**

##### **Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment**

#### **8. Background Papers**

Dorset Council, on behalf of the Dorchester Markets Car Boot Panel, receives income from the Sunday Dorchester Car Boot Sale held on the Dorchester

Market site. A proportion of this income is distributed to community and voluntary organisations via a community fund that is managed and administered by the Council through a panel comprising of members from Dorset Council and Dorchester Town Council.

The principle of using car boot sale returns to fund a grant scheme was first established in 1997 when Dorchester Markets Joint Committee created a donation scheme using the income from the weekly Dorchester car boot sale

## **9. Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund Criteria**

The Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund is open to community and voluntary organisations and in order to be shortlisted the following criteria must be met:

- Organisations must be operating or supporting residents living within a 6.67 mile radius of the market and within the West Dorset District Council boundary.
- All organisations must have a written constitution or terms of reference.
- All organisations must have an equal opportunities policy or be working towards adopting such a policy.
- If relevant, organisations must have safeguarding policy for vulnerable adults and/or children.
- All organisations must submit a copy of their most recent set of accounts or if a new organisation a copy of a recent bank statement

### **Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

### **Recommendation:**

That the panel consider whether they wish to open the grant fund for 2022/2023 to eligible groups. Officers suggest the fund could be opened mid-September for a period of 6 – 8 weeks. As eligible community groups re-start activities they may benefit from additional funding.