

Report sponsor: Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Resources

Report author: Toni Nash, Head of Finance

Compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules

Purpose

- 1.1
- Write off irrecoverable debts relating to Dunn Motor Traction Ltd, formerly trading as 'Yourbus'
 - Acceptance of Funding – Section 106 Contribution from South Derbyshire District Council for the construction of a footpath around the perimeter of Sinfin Moor Park
 - Addition to the capital programme - Construction of a footpath around the perimeter of Sinfin Moor Park
 - Approval to award grants to external organisations and schools to deliver the Council's plan to deliver the COVID Winter Grant Scheme

Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve:
- The write-off of irrecoverable debts totalling £0.063m owed by Dunn Motor Traction Ltd (formerly 'Yourbus') outlined in section 4.1
 - The acceptance of funding of £0.346m from South Derbyshire District Council for the Sinfin Moor Park project outlined in section 4.2
 - The addition of the Sinfin Moor Park project and associated funding to the 2020/21 - 2022/23 capital programme outlined in section 4.2
 - To award grants as part of the plans for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme outlined in section 4.3 and Appendix 2:
 - A grant to Community Action Derby (CAD) to deliver food parcels to vulnerable households and individuals via the Food 4 Thought Alliance of £0.225m
 - A grant to CAD to recruit temporary staff to help implement the Food 4 Thought Alliance to deliver additional food parcels of £0.010m
 - To delegate the distribution of the Free School Meals element of the Grant of £0.485m, to the Strategic Director of People Services as outlined in section 4.3
 - To delegate award a grant of £0.225m to Community Action Derby to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place.

Reason

- 3.1 To comply with Financial Procedure Rules.

Supporting information

4.1 Write off of Debt – Dunn Motor Traction Ltd

Dunn Motor Traction Ltd, formerly trading as 'Yourbus' provided local bus services in the East Midlands, including Derby and Derbyshire. The company ceased trading, and appointed administrators on 23 October 2019.

- 4.1.1 All possible avenues to recover the debt have been exhausted, it was highly unlikely that creditors would be paid following the debtor going into administration.
- 4.1.2 Cabinet is asked to write off the debt of £0.063m outlined in detail at Appendix 1 on this report. Full provision was made for the debt in the councils 2019/20 accounts.
- 4.1.3 It is recommended to approve the write-off of a total outstanding debt amount of £0.063m owed by Dunn Motor Traction Ltd – formerly trading as 'Yourbus'.

4.2 Perimeter footpath at Sinfin Moor Park

On 20th February 2008, a Section 106 agreement was signed by South Derbyshire District Council for the Stenson Fields development, a 487 dwelling residential scheme. The development is on Stenson Road but the site is within the administrative area of South Derbyshire District Council. The agreement specifies a requirement upon the developer to pay the sum of £0.346m towards major open space.

- 4.2.1 Following Cabinet approval for the scheme South Derbyshire has agreed to pay this sum to Derby City Council. This report request acceptance of that funding. The contribution is specified for a scheme of adult recreation facilities at land off Moorway Lane, Derby or land at Sinfin Moor Lane, Derby. The contribution expires in July 2021.
- 4.2.2 The contribution of £0.346m is to be used for a perimeter footpath at Sinfin Moor Park. The expectation is that it will be profiled £0.005 in 2020/21 and £0.341 in 2021/22.
- 4.2.3 The perimeter footpath will improve facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and potentially horse riders at Sinfin Moor Park. It would also fulfil the criteria specified in the S106 agreement to support the development of inclusive accessible opportunities for the adult population of Sinfin and Derby to engage with and be active outdoors. Finally, it would also support the development of community-based activities in the local area.
- 4.2.4 Following construction of the footpath, it is the councils intention to designate the path as a permissive bridleway.
- 4.2.5 It is recommended to approve acceptance of funding of £0.346m from South Derbyshire District Council for the Sinfin Moor Park project.

- 4.2.6 It is recommended to approve the addition of the Sinfin Moor Park project and the associated funding to the 2020/21 - 2021/22 Capital Programme.

4.3 COVID Winter Grant Scheme

- 4.3.1 The Council has been awarded a COVID Winter Grant Scheme of £0.899m which has been made available to all County Council's and Unitary Authorities to support those most in need with the cost of food and energy across the winter period ending 31 March 2021.

The purpose of the Grant is to help households with children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and other vulnerable families and individuals using a community partnership delivery model.

- 4.3.2 The proposals for the use of the grant are described below and outlined in Appendix 2.
- To awards grants to all schools in Derby to enable them to provide a meal to children eligible for free schools during the Christmas and February school holidays. The value of such grant will be equivalent to £3 per day per child and the awarding of such will be delegated to the Strategic Director of People Services
 - To award a grant of £0.225m to Community Action Derby to deliver additional food parcels to vulnerable households and individuals in Derby and the awarding of such will be delegated to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place
 - To allocate £0.160m to purchase vouchers from an existing contract to help with winter fuel payments and water charges
 - To note the award a grant of £0.01m to Community Action Derby to recruit temporary staff to help administer and deliver the additional food parcels
 - To note retention of a contingency in the grant of £0.019m to address issues or additional services that may arise during the period of the grant
- 4.3.3 Each school in Derby will provide a voucher for a daily meal to children eligible for free school meals during the half term breaks at Christmas 2020 and in late February 2021.
- 4.3.4 The Council will also make Winter Support Payments to up to 1,000 vulnerable families and individuals to help with winter fuel payments and water charge from 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021. Families and individuals requiring further help will be referred into the Welfare Reform Team for more personalised intensive support.
- 4.3.5 There will also be the provision 12,000 food parcels and toiletries to vulnerable families and individuals between 1 December 2020 and 31 March 2021, representing an increase from 500 per month to 3,000 per month.

- 4.3.6 It is recommended to approve the award of grants as part of the plans for the COVID Winter Grant Scheme.
- A grant to Community Action Derby (CAD) to deliver food parcels to vulnerable households and individuals via the Food 4 Thought Alliance of £0.225m
 - A grant to CAD to recruit temporary staff to help implement the Food 4 Thought Alliance deliver additional food parcels of £0.010m
- 4.3.7 It is recommended to approve to delegate the distribution of the Free School Meals element of the Grant of £0.485m, to the Strategic Director of People Services.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 **Perimeter footpath at Sinfin Moor Park** - Consultation and site visits were undertaken on the 18th and 19th of August 2020 with the Friends of Sinfin Moor Park and Sinfin ward members and a Neighbourhood Officer.

The Council have also been contacted by members of the horse-riding community regarding improving access for horse riding in the park. There is broad support for the installation of the footpath but the planning application process will provide an opportunity for anyone with objections to the project to express concerns.

Other options

- 6.1 **Perimeter footpath at Sinfin Moor Park** - The Council could choose to spend the money on an alternative project or in an alternative location however there would be a risk that the funding would have to be returned to the developer if the project was not agreed.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 As outlined in the report.

Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by the matters set out in this Report.

In respect of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme, Legal Services will advise on the terms of necessary grant agreements to govern the distribution of the grant monies to recipient organisations.

Climate implication

- 9.1 **Perimeter footpath at Sinfin Moor Park** - The project will encourage active travel and low-carbon activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding.

Other significant implications

10.1 Equality and Diversity Implications - Perimeter footpath at Sinfin Moor Park

The footpath would be constructed to a specification and gradients to allow easy access to the route for disabled users and provide a safer route for pedestrians, cyclists and potentially horse riders away from traffic.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Emily Feenan	25/11/2020
Finance	Toni Nash	27/11/2020
Service Director(s)	Alison Parkin	25/11/2020
Report sponsor	Simon Riley	
Other(s)	Bernard Fenton – COVID winter Grant	24/11/2020

Appendix 1

Cabinet approval is sought to write off the following debts:

Dunn Motor Traction Ltd – Customer ref: 108140

Invoice Number	Date	Value	Description	Reason
1359143	07/10/2019	£469	Bus Departures	Insolvency
1359135	04/10/2019	£4,181	Bus Departures	Insolvency
1357791	30/08/2019	£13,223	Bus Departures	Insolvency
1354930	25/06/2019	£8,424	Bus Departures	Insolvency
1351925	29/03/2019	£12,831	Bus Departures	Insolvency
1350374	05/03/2019	£18,624	Bus Departures	Insolvency
1342746	12/09/2018	£800	Bus Departures	Insolvency
	Total	£58,552		

Yourbus – Customer ref: 125061

Invoice Number	Date	Value	Description	Reason
1331328	20/12/2017	£2,400	Advertising	Insolvency
1327825	13/10/2017	£2,400	Advertising	Insolvency
	Total	£4,800		

Grand Total **£63,352**

Appendix 2

The following table details the schedule of payments to named organisations to deliver the COVID Winter Grant Scheme.

Organisation	Total Payment	Schedule	Outcome
Schools in Derby	£485,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in first week of December • 50% in first week of February 	Provision of 161,640 meals
Community Action Derby (CAD)	£225,000	£68,750 on the 1 st of each month from Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Provision of 12,000 food parcels with toiletries
Paypoint Payment Services Ltd	£160,000	Pay £40,000 to pre-fund the voucher scheme, which is then topped up weekly with the cost of the vouchers issued to a maximum of £160,000	Payment of up to 1,000 Winter Support Awards
Community Action Derby (CAD)	£10,000	Paid at the end of each month starting December 2020 and ending 31 March 2021 Based on submission of invoice	Use of temporary staff to manage increased administration associated with scheme
	£19,489	Paid with authorisation from S151 Officer	Potential use of additional services