

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

19th March 2018

Agenda Item: 6

Report of North Area Council Manager

North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members about the North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant application and allocation process.
- 1.2 To update members on the outcome of the grant panel meeting and the projects approved for funding.
- 1.3 The report also outlines the performance management and monitoring arrangements for successful projects.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 **Members note the NAC Stronger Communities Grant update.**
- 2.2 **Members note the projects that have been approved for funding.**
- 2.3 **Members agree the performance and monitoring arrangements outlined in Section 7.**

3. Background

Having noted the success of the Stronger Communities Grant funded projects which have been delivered throughout 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 and it was agreed at the Area Council Meeting on the 20th November 2017 that the North Area would run the Stronger Communities Grant funding opportunity for the project delivery in 2018/19.

The NAC Stronger Communities Grant was established as a grants programme totalling £80,000 (2018/19) to address the identified North Area Council priorities. It is aimed at developing the capacity of community groups and organisations, social enterprises and not for profit organisations, with a view to enabling them to bid for future procurements.

The grant opportunity was advertised at the beginning of December 2017 and the final date for submission of applications was the 26th January 2018. 7 applications were received, totalling £124,697.00.

The Grants Panel Member received their panel packs w/c 12th February. This included an information sheet, paper copies of all the applications and 'Scoring Matrix' top sheet for each application which needed to be completed prior to the panel meeting.

Each ward was represented on the panel as follows:

Darton East	Cllr Gail Charlesworth
Darton West	Cllr Sharon Howard
Old Town	Cllr Philip Lofts
St Helen's	Cllr Jenny Platts

4. Recommended Projects

The Members had an opportunity to independently score each application before meeting for the Evaluation Panel on Thursday 15th March (original date of 1st March was postponed). The scoring matrix provided a robust qualitative and quantitative basis upon which to identify suitable applications. All applications required a majority recommendation from the panel in order to be successful. The panel was independently chaired by the North Area Council Manager and supported by the North Area's Senior Link Officer and the Area Team. The approval process can found as Appendix 1.

5 applications were recommended for funding. At the time of writing the projects have yet to be submitted for approval by the Head of Stronger Communities. The total allocated amount for these 5 projects was £80,000.

The recommended projects are as follows (they are in no particular order):

YMCA – YMCA Youthwork: £16,056

The project aims to maintain and further develop the YMCA Youth Work project in the North area, based on needs assessed and consultation with stake holders, staff and young people; enabling children and young people from the localities to access a range of positive activities which provide alternatives to risk taking and anti-social behaviour and contribute to improving their overall health and wellbeing.

To maintain and expand a programme of open access positive activities, provision, and opportunities for young people in the locality; including centre based youth work and weekly detached youth work in the area.

DIAL Barnsley – hOurBank - £14,662

“*hOurBank*” is a pilot project to explore and develop a ‘person to person’ timebank within the North Area Council. The project aims to address both the financial and social exclusion being experienced by local residents within deprived communities in Barnsley and to encourage community involvement by promoting and facilitating people to support each other. This project builds work previously delivered in the Dearne area.

Ad Astra – Taking Young People Seriously - £19,925

Ad Astra aims to raise the aspirations of children and young people and bring wider benefit to communities. They aim to do this by giving children and young people opportunities and experiences, which will help raise confidence, self esteem and a sense of ownership and independence.

With the funding they receive they will be offering two afterschool sessions for children and young people aged 6 to 16 years with activities including Homework Support, creative activities plus fun and fitness activities in Old Town. They will also deliver detached youth work in the Old Town and St Helens Wards that will include some consultation with young people about services they would like in their areas.

Ad Astra hope to develop a Youth Council to link into other agencies in Barnsley to help give young people another voice in our communities.

Woolley Colliery Miners Welfare Scheme – Tractor Project - £9,800

Extract from application form: ‘The aim of the tractor project is to purchase a tractor. We are a charity which manages sports facility in Barnsley. We have three separate football clubs playing at the venue consisting of 11 teams and one cricket club consisting of 14 teams. We are also working with the clubs to start a women’s softball team in the summer of 2018 as well as the existing clubs within to expand. The grounds hold a lot of surface water without aeration regularly and this can damage the pitches, consequently stopping a lot of people from playing. We want to buy a tractor and aerator to manage this better so we can let more people play sports and enjoy the facilities in our area.’

Royal Voluntary Service – Barnsley North Looking Out for Older People: £19,557

Our aim is not to replace, but to complement existing provisions. The project will complement existing services such as social prescribing and general medicine practice by working with older people to reduce loneliness and isolation whilst Increasing mobility, strength and independence.

The Royal Voluntary Service has a successful partnership with Move It or Lose It! A targeted exercise routine that seeks to address muscle loss (e.g. sarcopenia) for those with balance and mobility problems, aiming to build muscle mass and reduce sedentary behaviour. This will form a cornerstone of the delivery model.

The project aims to create 20 new volunteering roles, create two new groups promoting fitness and wellbeing and encourage 80 older people to become more engaged in social activities.

5. Lessons Learned

- i. That more nationally recognised charities who have a presence in the Barnsley are looking to the Stronger Communities Grant for funding. The funding was not intended for this purpose. It was designed as an enablement grant for smaller community groups to gain experience of managing larger sums of grant funding.

6. Project Development Work

The Area Manager will now meet with all the successful project leads to ensure that all the projects are robust: deliverable within the timescales, and outcomes/outcome indicators and targets developed.

In some cases the panel have attached conditions to the grant funding.

7. Grant Awards and Performance Monitoring/Management

Once approved, all organisations will be notified and asked to sign an Award Agreement letter which, together with the detailed Stage 2 application form, will form the basis of the contractual agreement between the Council and the organisation for the grant awarded.

Those projects under £10,000 will receive a one-off grant payment for the full amount and will be asked to submit their monitoring information at the end of the project

Those projects over £10,000 have submitted a monitoring/performance framework and quarterly payment schedule as part of their application. Quarterly payments will only be released once the North Area Council Manager is satisfied that monitoring/performance targets for the previous quarter have been met, or if not met, a satisfactory reason is given as to why this is the case and revised targets for the following quarters agreed.

Progress on projects will be reported back to North Area Council on a regular basis and a full evaluation report about the NAC Stronger Communities Fund process and projects will be presented to North Area Council on completion of all projects, anticipated early 2018/19.

8. Next steps

Members are asked to note that this year's grant funding was over prescribed. This lead to greater scrutiny of the applications in accordance with the scoring criteria. Members are asked to give consideration regarding if they wish run the grant again in 2019/20.

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Date:
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Appendix 1: North Area Council

Stronger Communities Grant 2017/18 onwards - Approval Process

