

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North East Area Council Meeting

Date: 23/11/2023

Report of North East Area Council Manager

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Date: 09/11/2023

1.0 Purpose of Report

This report seeks to inform Members about agreed spend to date from the Ward Alliance Funds within the North East area for 2023-2024. This forms the report for the financial year and remaining allocations carried forward from the financial period 2022-23.

2.0 Recommendation

That the North East Area Council receives the Ward Alliance Fund Report and notes spend to date for the Wards of Cudworth, Monk Bretton, North East and Royston.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 This report is set within the context of decisions made with regards to the Ward Alliance Fund arrangements (Cab16.1.2013/10.3).

Following the Council's decision to withdraw Devolved Ward Budget funding from 1st April 2016, the use of Ward Alliance Funding and the associated allocation of monies to Ward Alliances across the borough has also been reviewed and amended.

3.2 In considering projects for the use of Ward Alliance Funds, Members are satisfied that the projects identified meet a recognised need for the Ward, are in the wider public interest, and represent value for money.

4.0 Commitments to Date

4.1 A breakdown of the approved NEAC spend for the 2023-24 financial year, is attached at Appendix 1.

4.2 Ward Alliances are currently reviewing priorities and updating action plans to ensure the timely expenditure of all Ward Alliance funds.

2023-24 North East Ward Funding Allocations

For 2023-24 each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 for the Ward Alliance Fund and an £10,000 has been devolved from the Area Council Budget.

50% of the funding requires a match-funding element of volunteer time that directly relates to the project in question, or other match funding resources (such as free room hire or donations of goods and equipment). This reflects the fact that the fund is intended to support volunteering and social action in our communities.

50% can be used for initiatives that have no volunteer element – such as the purchase and installation of benches, hanging baskets or other street furniture.

Area Councils have the option to allocate up to £20,000 from the Area Council budget to each of their Ward Alliances. This is discretionary to each Area Council.

The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2022-23 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2023-24 Allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the above conditions.

All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.