

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Agenda Item: 4

Report of North Area Council  
Manager

### North Area Council Stronger Communities Grant 2017/18 Second Round Update

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The North Area Council agreed at the April 2017 meeting that the unallocated Stronger Communities Grant Funding would be available in a second round of funding allocated from the 2017/18 period.

1.2 This report provides members with the outcome of the grant panel meeting.

#### 2. Recommendations

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.**

2.4. **That Members note the unallocated £65,108.50 (This includes carry forward from 2016/17) and agree on how the remainder of the funding will be utilised.**

2.5. **That the remaining funding is not rolled forwards for the next round.**

#### 3. Background

Having noted the success of the Stronger Communities Grant funded projects which have been delivered throughout 2015/16 and 2016/17, it was agreed at the Area Council Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 that the North Area would run the Stronger Communities Grant funding opportunity for the project delivery in 2017/18.

The NAC Stronger Communities Grant was established as a grants programme totalling £129,766 (this included unallocated funds from 2016/17) 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 was launched at the beginning of December 2016 and the final date for submission of applications was the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. 7 applications were received, totalling £92,837.50. The Panel met in February, when 5 applications were identified for funding and submitted for approval by the Stronger Barnsley Locality Manager. The total allocated amount for these 5 projects was £64,658.

It was agreed to use the £65,108.50 unallocated fund for a second round of grants funding, available for projects commencing in October 2017.

The grant was launched during May and the closing date for applications was the 30<sup>th</sup> June. 4 applications were received, totalling £64,311.00.

The Grants Panel Member received their panel packs w/c 17<sup>th</sup> July. 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 Dave Leech

#### **4. Recommended Projects**

The Members had an opportunity to independently score each application before meeting for the Evaluation Panel on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. 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.

3 applications were identified and submitted for approval by the Stronger Barnsley Locality Manager. The total allocated amount for these 3 projects was £44,311. This leaves £20,797.50 unallocated.

#### **The recommended projects are as follows:**

##### Ad Astra - £19,500

The Community Interest Company aims to use their management of New Lodge Community Centre to provide activities to involve a wide range of New Lodge and St Helens residents. These activities aim to provide a variety of volunteering opportunities, health benefits and improve community cohesion.

In addition Ad Astra will continue in its primary aim of raising the aspirations of young people throughout the North Area by providing and involving themselves and their volunteers in a wide range of community activities. These will be

Family Fun days, After School Clubs, Peer support and Anti Bullying workshops and events to help improve the local environment.

#### Emmanuel Methodist Church - £5,000

Emmanuel Church hosts a number of concert and performing arts events during the year. The church has been advised by concert users that the lighting in the concert space is not fit for purpose. The grant funding will contribute to larger financial commitment to replace the stage lighting in the main concert area.

#### Homestart – Lifeline Project - £19,811

Homestart intend to deliver a project to provide unique and proven support to isolated and vulnerable families in north Barnsley, building on the work we have delivered in other areas previously.

Homestart have use a volunteering model to support their delivery and they intend to recruit and specifically train local people on their accredited course to become volunteers and undertake home-visits, where they can provide practical help, emotional support and parenting advice to families who are struggling.

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. Unallocated funding**

It is recommended that the £20,797.50 which was not allocated during the process is recycled into the main commissioning budget.

#### **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 2017/19.

**8. Next steps**

The Area Council are asked to consider if they wish the grant funding opportunity to run again from April 2018. If so this opportunity will need to be advertised from November 2017.

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**Date:**  
**04/09/2017**