

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council Meeting:

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Agenda Item: 4

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 recommended 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 recommended for funding, pending further information.
- 2.3 Members note that the Panel will reconvene to confirm that the requests of the panel have been met.
- 2.4 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 to 2021/22 it was agreed at the Area Council Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 that the North Area would run the Stronger Communities Grant funding opportunity for the project delivery in 2022/23.

The NAC Stronger Communities Grant was established as a grants programme totalling £40,000 (2022/23) 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 North Area Council recognises that 2020 and 2021 have been exceptionally difficult due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The impact on lives across all sectors of society has been severe. For the year 2022/23 North Area Council welcomed applications that will help to alleviate the pressures of the pandemic. Particularly those that have been affected by financial hardship. During our recent Community Listening activity conducted during July and August 2021, residents identified the current needs and wants:

- Activities in the community for children, young people, individuals and families
- Opportunities to learn new skills
- Creative and craft-based activities
- Activities in nature and greenspaces.

The grant opportunity was advertised at the beginning of December 2021 and the final date for submission of applications was the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A total of 4 applications were received before the deadline, totalling **£23,716.34**. (Plus one ineligible application from a private business.)

The Grants Panel Member received their panel packs electronically w/c 7<sup>th</sup> February. This included an information sheet, copies of all the applications and 'Scoring Matrix' top sheet for each application which needed to be completed prior to the panel meeting.

The Wards were represented by the following Councillors.

Darton East	Cllr Steve Hunt
Darton West	Cllr Sharon Howard
Old Town	Cllr Phil Lofts
St Helen's	Cllr Sarah Jane Tattersall

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

The Members had an opportunity to independently score each application before meeting for the Evaluation Panel on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. 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 chaired by Cllr Howard and supported by the Area Team. The approval process can found as Appendix 1.

COVID-19 – the panel particularly welcomed applications that supported the community with recovery from the far-reaching impacts of Covid-19.

The panel also considered the Five Ways to Wellbeing as part of the scoring and moderation process.



2 applications were recommended for funding, **pending further information from the applicants.** At the time of writing the projects have yet to be submitted for approval by the Head of Stronger Communities.

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

**Mother Runners – Stronger Mums – up to £10,000**

Mother Runners is a free to access community group established in January 2020 to address the physical and mental well-being needs of ladies in Barnsley. Historically it has been proven that mums struggle to motivate themselves to keep fit and healthy owing to the increasing pressures of family life. The group was created by a mum who followed a Couch to 5K plan herself and realised the mental and physical benefits of running. Being able to use the familiar streets around Barnsley meant that the activity was free of charge, which was one of the most important issues to the group to enable inclusion of as many as possible.

When we launch our “Stronger Mums” project, we will be seeking to empower other women in this way. By setting up satellite groups around the North Area with a dedicated leader and tail walker, as the group progresses through the 9 week Couch to 5K programme we would then identify participants to train up to continue the group. Our vision is to set up 4 new satellites with 25 mums in each group, who once they finish their training would be able to roll out the training to grow their own groups.

With almost 100 members and a long waiting list we know that the approach has proven to be a success, notably with support from the Yorkshire sports foundation and National Lottery funds previously. As our team grew, we now have a full committee and constitution and would seek to embark upon a new project entitled “Stronger Mums” starting in Easter of this year.

N.B. The Grant Panel wished to ensure that the project was as inclusive as possible. Mother runners have been requested to produce further information and consider extending the reach of their project prior to the release of funding.

### **Mapplewell and Staincross Greenspace and Recreation Group – Mapplewell Park – Children’s Cycle Path – up to £10,000.00**

The aim of the project is to encourage children to learn to ride a bike. The benefits are improved motor skills, balance, strength, and co-ordination. Improved mental health and wellbeing of participants, including noted increases in confidence, self-esteem, and sense of achievement. Training children to cycle safely -Bike ability training to encourage cycling and improve road safety. Encouraging active travel to combat childhood obesity and improve our children’s future.

N.B. The project is a capital project at the point of submission which focusses on the installation of a cycle track. The Grant Panel wishes to ensure that the funding and associate projects deliver outcomes for the community. The Panel have requested that the Area Team liaise with the applicants and develop the project further, prior to approval of funds by the Panel.

**Applicants have been given 28 days to respond. The Panel will reconvene in late March to ensure that the applicants have conformed with the requirements determined above.**

## **5. Lessons Learned**

5.1. The inclusion of the Five Ways to Wellbeing in the scoring criteria have helped the Panel understand how the North Area Funding contributes to the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

5.2. The fund was undersubscribed for the first time.

## **6. Project Development Work**

The Area Manager will now work with the applicants to follow up the Grant Panels requests for further information. Ensuing that all the projects are robust: deliverable within the timescales, and outcomes/outcome indicators and targets developed.

## **7. Grant Awards and Performance Monitoring/Management**

Provided the applicants are able to make the amendments to their projects as requested by the panel. The Panel will be updated and approval to proceed sought.

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

Those projects significantly 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.

All applicants have submitted a monitoring/performance framework and quarterly payment schedule as part of their application. Where a quarterly payment is agreed the 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 2021/22.

## **8. Next steps**

8.1. The Area Manager will keep the Area Council apprised of further developments.

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**Date:**  
20/02/2022

## Appendix 1: North Area Council

### Stronger Communities Grant 2017/18 onwards - Approval Process

