

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	26 NOVEMBER 2018	7
COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Community Projects Fund (CPF) was previously financed from legacy funding earmarked for this purpose by the former Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This legacy fund ended in 2016/17. For 2017/18 funding in the sum of £25k was approved as a revenue growth item for that year only. Similarly For 2018/19 funding in the sum of £20k was approved as a revenue growth item for that year only. This report requests that a revenue budget growth item be presented as part of the budget-setting consideration for 2019/20 in the sum of £20k per annum for each year from 2019/20 onwards. The determination of revenue growth items will be made as part of the budget-setting Council meeting in March 2019.

The current process and criteria for the fund has continued from when it was part of the LSP. At the Finance and Democracy committee meeting, held on 25 June 2018, it was resolved to appoint Councillors Buckley, Mulholland, Oades, Redcliffe, Singleton and Fazackerley to a working group to consider the *principle and criteria* of the Community Projects Fund.

This report details the recommendations from the Working Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Community Projects Fund should continue going forward and the bidding criteria should link in with the council's Corporate Plan including value for money
2. That the Committee indicate its support that a revenue budget growth item to be presented as part of the budget-setting process for 2019/20 in the sum of £20k per annum for each year from 2019/20 onwards to provide continued funding for the Community Projects Fund.
3. That the fund is open to local community based, non-political groups, to apply for within the confines of the Borough
4. That annual reporting on the Community Projects Fund be made to the Finance and Democracy Committee
5. Sarah Dunne, Relationship Manager with Active Lancashire to be appointed to the join the Community Projects Fund Panel, which should otherwise remain comprised as present
6. A group of internal officers be established to act as a Community Projects Fund sounding board to offer assistance and feedback to applicants and panel members
7. A draft scoring matrix be trialed for the larger funding bids by the Panel
8. That the window for submitting applications be removed, but retain a closing date for submissions
9. That the availability of the fund is widely publicised to community groups via a social media campaign supplemented by written information and attendance at events as appropriate.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Finance & Democracy Committee – 25 June 2018

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

REPORT

1. At the Finance and Democracy committee meeting, held on 25 June 2018, it was resolved to appoint Councillors Buckley, Mulholland, Oades, Redcliffe, Singleton and Fazackerley to a working group to consider the principle and criteria of the Community Projects Fund and to make recommendations thereon to the Finance and Democracy Committee.
2. The Working Group met on 21 September 2018. The notes from the meeting are attached as an appendix to this report.
3. A summary of the recommendation from the working group are :-
 - The Community Projects Fund should continue going forward
 - Criteria should link in with the council's Corporate Plan including value for money
 - That annual reporting on the CPF be made to the Finance and Democracy Committee
 - Sarah Dunne, Relationship Manager with Active Lancashire to be appointed to the join the Community Projects Fund Panel, which should remain comprised as present
 - A group of internal officers to offer assistance and feedback to applicants and panel members on applications
 - A draft scoring matrix to be put to the panel members for their trial use
 - That the window for submitting applications be removed, but retain a closing date for submissions
 - Publicity options be pursued via a social media campaign supplemented by written information and attendance at events as appropriate

IMPLICATIONS

Finance	This report requests that the Committee indicate its support of a revenue growth bid for 2019/20 onwards in the sum of £20k per annum to provide continued funding for the Community Projects Fund. The determination of revenue growth items will be made as part of the budget-setting Council meeting in March 2019.
Legal	No direct implications
Community Safety	No direct implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No direct implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The fund offers the opportunity to community groups to access funding to sustain local projects
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No direct implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tracy Manning	tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk	30 October 2018

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Finance & Democracy Committee	25 June 2018	Minutes from F&D meeting

Attached documents
Community Projects Fund Working Group Notes