



FBC – Revenue Growth Bid 2018/19

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Scheme Title: Community Projects Fund

Description of Scheme: Background

In March 2013, the former Local Strategic Partnership wound up. In doing so, it allocated an amount totalling £98,000 to allow the Community Projects Fund, and associated Discretionary Fund, to continue into the future. This funding ran its course and in 2017/18, the Council mainstreamed this grant into its revenue budget allocating an amount of £25,000.

£20,000 was allocated for the larger Community Projects Fund, which awards grants of between £500 and £2,000. A further £5,000 was allocated for the smaller discretionary bids of up to £300. Projects can only be supported for local groups based in Fylde who are of a voluntary or community based nature. There are some exclusions of those permitted to apply for the funding, for example, Town and Parish Councils have historically been excluded from being awarded funds from the larger fund as they are considered to be a statutory body with the ability of raising funds locally. The fund is principally aimed at supporting community and voluntary groups.

The project must support one of the following objectives:

- To Promote the Enhancement of the Natural and Built Environment
- To Encourage Cohesive Communities
- To Promote a Thriving Economy

The larger Community Projects Fund which supports bids up to £2,000 and invites applications through bidding rounds, three times per annum. Applications for the smaller fund can be made at any time throughout the year.

Applications for larger fund are considered by a Panel comprising the Mayor of Fylde, the Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership, a voluntary sector representative, Fylde Police Inspector, a public health representative together with the Council's Director of Resources. A flavour of some of the schemes which have recently been supported is set out below. This is by no means an exhaustive list; and a third bidding round for the larger fund commences in February with smaller bids being received on an on-going basis.

- Lytham St Cuthbert's Community Fridge - purchase of community fridge
- Friends of Lytham Railway Station - self-watering barrels, baskets and planters
- Just Good Friends - purchase of office equipment
- Park View 4 U - grounds and environmental improvements – purchase of materials
- Fylde Coast Theatre Company - funding for Community Christmas Pantomime
- Friends of Promenade Gardens - water play scheme contribution
- Singleton Bowling Club - purchase of outdoor seating
- YMCA Rounders Lessons - purchase of rounders equipment
- LATA - purchase of sound/mixing deck

- Seaton Crescent Residents - provision of four composters (wood frames) and treated wood and stakes to provide tiered flower beds
- Fylde Fairtrade - Fairtrade flower beds to celebrate 10 years of Fairtrade
- Little Eccleston Parish Council - contribution towards village improvement plan
- Kilnhouse Community - equipment for Community Celebration
- Friends of St Annes Stations - materials to create two new wooden planters

Proposal

It is recommended that £20,000 revenue funding is allocated to the Community Projects fund in 2018/19. It is proposed that three bidding rounds are held throughout the financial year, as in previous years, with £15,000 allocated to the larger fund and the remaining £5,000 allocated to the smaller fund with a ceiling of £300 per application. An overview of the 2017/18 Community Projects Fund and its allocations will be provided to the Finance and Democracy Committee following the conclusion of the financial year.