

TITLE OF REPORT: **The Impact of the Gateshead Fund 2016-17: a case study**

REPORT OF: **Paul Dowling, Strategic Director Communities and Environment**

Summary

The purpose of the report is to seek Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views on the impact of the Gateshead Fund during 2016/17, looking at how it has helped to support, develop and build capacity in the voluntary and community sector and thereby help strengthen Gateshead's local communities.

Introduction

1. Cabinet agreed the Gateshead Fund on 1st March 2011. The proposal created a fund for the voluntary and community sector to support, develop and build capacity in the sector and to help strengthen communities. The Gateshead Fund comprises two elements:
 - **Local Community Fund** – provides opportunities for councillors to support local projects and activities with the aim of actively promoting community engagement and development.
 - **Gateshead Capacity Building Fund** – to increase organisations' skills and expertise to diversify their income, expand services or consider different ways of working (e.g. delivering services, collaboration and/or partnership working) to enable organisations to become more sustainable.

The Gateshead Fund outcomes and priorities

2. The agreed outcomes of the Gateshead Fund are:
 - Increased capacity building and sustainability within the voluntary and community sector
 - Increased provision of services by the voluntary and community sector
 - Improved clarity and equity in commissioning processes
 - Simplified and proportionate application and assessment processes
 - Retention and expansion of councillor community champion role.
3. Agreed priorities for supporting the voluntary and community sector are:
 - To set in place processes and support that simplify the Council's funding relationship with the voluntary and community sector
 - To enable groups and organisations to deliver Gateshead's priorities within Vision 2030 and the Council Plan

- To continue to support individuals, through grants, to enable residents to achieve their full potential
- To support and enable the sector to deliver more services within neighbourhoods and across Gateshead Council to support organisations to diversify their income and become less reliant on Council funding and be more self-sustaining
- To enable the Council to broaden its support to more groups and organisations as the sector develops capacity.

The Gateshead Fund Budget 2016/17

4. Council agreed a £400,000 budget for the Gateshead Fund for 2016/17: £334,000 for the Capacity Building Fund. A further £100,000 from the Public Health budget was also agreed to be part of the Capacity Building Fund. In addition, Cabinet agreed Advisory Group's recommendation of 19th February 2016 that the remaining £56,267 funding from 2015/16 should be carried forward to 2016/17 which resulted in an overall Fund budget of £490,267.
5. It was also agreed to continue with the same Fund objectives and approach as 2015/16 with a few minor changes, including 3 new objectives:
 - Developing and mobilising volunteers
 - Supporting building relationships within communities
 - Supporting residents to build their communities and improve what is already there.

Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

6. Following completion of the first round of the Capacity Building Fund, the Council entered into a new agreement with the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland to administer and develop the Capacity Building Fund on behalf of the Council, for a 3 year period subject to an annual review and Council budgetary considerations.
7. The overall governance of the Fund process remains the same, with the recommendations of Advisory Group being forwarded for consideration by Cabinet for each round. However, applications by community groups and organisations are now made direct to the Foundation, who then carry out an independent assessment of applications received utilising Fund criteria determined by the Council.

Impact of the Gateshead Fund in 2016/17

8. Capacity Building Fund
As part of the new Fund administration arrangements, the annual review of the Capacity Building Fund, as prepared by the Community Foundation, is in the form of a publication, which accompanies this report in Appendix 1. It mirrors the style typically prepared by the Foundation for other funds it administers on behalf of trusts and endowments. It features a breakdown of how the Fund has been allocated during 2016/17, including examples of some of the applications; a

breakdown of the Volunteers' Month small grants and Sporting Grants for Individuals.

9. The report also includes an update on research currently being carried out by the Foundation, exploring ways in which the Gateshead Fund might be developed and augmented in the future, and a look at some of the key issues facing the Borough's voluntary and community sector as illustrated by the Foundation's Vital Signs sector analysis.
10. Local Community Fund Activity in 2016/17
The Local Community Fund helps councillors to support a wide variety of local priorities, groups and organisations, helping to deliver the priorities of the Council Plan. This component of the Gateshead Fund remains the direct responsibility of Council officers to administer.
11. Since the Local Community Fund was first introduced, over 800 voluntary and community groups and projects have now been funded and supported. A total of 88 groups and projects totalling over £55,500 were supported through the specific 2016/17 budget allocation. Appendix 2 sets out the projects supported by wards with this allocation. Examples of how the Local Community Fund has supported groups and organisations across the Borough with the 2016/17 funding allocation include:

Health and Wellbeing

- Activities for residents to help them socialise, keep fit and stay connected to their communities
- Sporting activities, including facilities and equipment
- Holiday Hunger activities
- Food co-ops
- First aid equipment
- A Credit Union
- Christmas lunches and parties to celebrate the Queens' 90th birthday

Community facilities and activities

- Community centre repairs and equipment e.g. energy efficiency lighting, water heater, noticeboards etc.
- Young people's activities e.g. scout 100 celebration, jazz bands, unformed organisations, youth band etc.
- Community festivals including summer and winter fairs and shows across Gateshead, Birtley Community Festival.

Environmental Improvements

- Town centre and village planting projects
- Garden projects
- Park improvements
- Nature park
 - Community tidy ups

Arts, heritage and culture

- Christmas trees and lighting
- Trips to Beamish and the Durham Miner's Gala
- Remembrance garden
- Local History group
- Community Centre's 125th anniversary
- Colliery memorial artwork.

The Local Community Fund has helped to support delivery of the following outcomes:

- Increased councillor community leadership
- Increased community engagement and cohesion
- Increased community capacity
- Increased community involvement in neighbourhoods and environmental improvements
- Supported volunteering
- Enhanced health and wellbeing for residents and communities
- Increased community involvement in festivals, events and community centres.

Summary

12. The Gateshead Fund continues to provide a valuable source of support for many of Gateshead's community groups and organisations. Interest and demand remains high amongst organisations accessing the Fund to support core running costs, project and capacity building / training costs. Analysis of the Gateshead Fund 2016/17 has demonstrated significant positive impact in the community and contribution to the delivery of the Council Plan priorities.

Recommendations

13. Corporate Vitality Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

Consider the impact of the Gateshead Fund in 2016/17 on:

- a. The voluntary and community sector in Gateshead
- b. Neighbourhoods and strengthening communities
- c. The extent to which the Gateshead Fund supports delivery of the Council Plan priorities.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Impact of the Gateshead Capacity Building Fund 2016/17: report by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Appendix 2: Local Community Fund project spend by Ward

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Appendix 1

Impact of the Gateshead Capacity Building Fund 2016/17: report by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

Appendix 2

Local Community Fund project spend by Ward

Central Area	
Bridges	
Groups etc. supported	Gateshead Clubhouse - Being Well, Staying Well Friends of Bede Parent Association Mulgrave Villas - Boccia equipment Peace of Mind - Holiday Hunger event at St Joseph's RC
Total Spend	£1,439
Average spend per project	£360
Deckham	
Groups etc. supported	Deckham Community Centre - Water Heater Deckham Village Hall Craft Group Elgin Centre Women's Group
Total Spend	£2,893
Average spend per project	£964
Saltwell	
Groups etc. supported	St Chad's Community Project - Community Fun Day Friends of Central Library - Holiday Gap event Kelvin Grove School - Litter picking equipment ShIPLEY Art Gallery - Holiday Gap event
Total Spend	£2,528
Average spend per project	£632
Lobley Hill & Bensham	
Groups etc. supported	St Chad's Community Project - Community Fun Day Bensham & Saltwell Alive - Food Coop Christmas support Bensham & Saltwell Alive - Food Coop refugee support Peace of Mind - Eid Party
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£750
Central Area Total	£9,860

East Area	
Felling	
Groups etc. supported	Christ Church - Sound system upgrade induction loop
	Christmas Tree
	Friends of Felling Park and Town Centre - Start up costs
	Heworth Colliery Band Banner Group - Durham Miners Gala Parade
	Pensher Street Camera
	The Felling Heritage Group - Felling Day at Beamish
Total Spend	£3,938
Average spend per project	£656
Pelaw and Heworth	
Groups etc. supported	Edbert's House - Defibrillator
	Sight Service - accessible games and DVD player
	Heworth Colliery Banner Group - Durham Miners Gala Parade
	McErlane Square Sheltered Scheme - Activities
	St Mary's Church - Hall project
	The Felling Heritage Group - Felling Day at Beamish
	Wood Green Residents Association - Gardening project
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£429
Wardley and Leam Lane	
Groups etc. supported	Felling Magpies
	Heworth Colliery Band Banner Group - Durham Miners Gala Parade
	Leam Lane Methodist Church - Defibrillator
	St Andrew's Church - Defibrillator
	The Felling Heritage Group - Felling Day at Beamish
Total Spend	£2,998
Average spend per project	£599.60
Windy Nook and Whitehills	
	1st Windy Nook Brigade & Methodist Youth Band - Instruments
	39th Gateshead Scout Group - Tent
	Friends of Windy Nook Nature Park - Planning Application
	Friends on Friday - Theatre visit
	Friends of Windy Nook Nature Park - Improvements to the Park
	Heworth Colliery Band Banner Group - Durham Miners Gala Parade
	Kays Cottages - Activities
	The Felling Heritage Group - Felling Day at Beamish
	The Lighthouse - Bus trips for the elderly
	Windy Nook and Heworth Colliery History Group - activities
Total Spend	£4,162
Average spend per project	£416
East Area Total	£14,099

South Area	
High Fell	
Groups etc. supported	33rd Gateshead Brownies
	Beacon Rise - Fence
	Cumbric +19 CIC - Youth Pool Team
	Sapphires Jazz Band
	Silverline Memories - Mower & Strimmer
	Springwell Kids Club - Room hire cost
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£500
Low Fell	
Groups etc. supported	Hardman Centre - SITA application 11% third party contribution
	Christmas Tree
	Low Fell Forum - Summer Fayre
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£1,000
Lamesley	
Groups etc. supported	Friends of Kibblesworth Academy - Queen's 90th Birthday celebration
	Birtley Heritage Group -Storage Units
	Birtley Partnership - Community Festival
	Christmas Tree / Lights
	Birtley Partnership - Telling Tales Arts project
	Birtley Belgians - Interpretation Boards
	Birtley Partnership - MSH Signage
	Wrekenton Blue Star
Total Spend	£3,130
Average spend per project	£1,043
Birtley	
Groups etc. supported	Birtley Heritage Group - Archive storage
	Birtley Jazz Society - Running costs
	Birtley Partnership - Community Festival
	Birtley Partnership - Hub lock replacement
	Birtley Partnership - Telling Tales Arts project
	Birtley Town FC - Training goals
	Christmas Tee / Lights
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£1,000
South Area Total	£14,099

Inner West Area	
Whickham North	
Groups etc. supported	Community Music Whickham and Swalwell
	Planting up Whickham
	Swalwell Christmas Tree project
	Swalwell Community Centre
	Whickham Christmas Tree
Total Spend	£2,911
Average spend per project	£582
Dunston & Teams	
Groups etc. supported	Gateshead Scouts - Whickham Thorns outdoor toilet
	Dunston Drop-In - DBS checks
Total Spend	£784
Average spend per project	£392
Dunston Hill & Whickham East	
Groups etc. supported	Gateshead Scouts - Whickham Thorns outdoor toilet
	Dunston Christmas Tree
Total Spend	£804
Average spend per project	£402
Inner West Area Total	£4,499
	<i>(no projects funded in Whickham South and Sunnyside ward from 2016/17 budget)</i>

West Area	
Blaydon	
Groups etc. supported	Blaydon Credit Union - Publicity and promotion
	Scout 100 Celebration
	Ryton Cricket Club Barmoor Fireworks
	Friends of Greengates Park - Sustainable planting project
	Blaydon West Residents Association - Shibdon Dene improvements
	Blaydon Y. & C. Centre - planting and environmental improvements
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£500
Winlaton & High Spen	
	Scout 100 Celebration
	Winlaton Mill Drama Group - Sound system
	Lockhaugh Noticeboard
	High Spen Primary School - Remembrance Garden
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£750
Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	
Groups etc. supported	Chopwell Men's Shed - Start up costs
	Scout 100 Celebration
	Christmas Tree
	Rowlands Gill Community Centre - Energy efficiency lighting
	1st Chopwell Scouts - Energy survey
	St Barnabus Church - Christmas celebration
	Blackhall Mill Community Association - Summer Fair
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£429
Ryton, Crookhill & Stella	
Groups etc. supported	Stargate and Crookhill Community Centre - Summer Fair
	Ryton Christmas Tree Lights
	Ryton Cricket Club - Barmoor Fireworks
	Ryton Cricket Club- Ryton Show and Fair
	Ryton Hirings 2017
	1st Ryton Scouts - Equipment
	Stargate and Crookhill Community Centre - Winter Fair
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£429
Crawcrook & Greenside	
Groups etc. supported	Ryton Cricket Club - Barmoor Fireworks
	Christmas Trees
	Banner Tales - The Last Shift Memorial Artwork
	Clara Vale Community Centre - 125th anniversary
Total Spend	£3,000
Average spend per project	£750
West Area Total	£15,000