

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Gateshead Fund 2017/18 Round One Applications**

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

---

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the advice of Gateshead Fund Advisory Group to Cabinet, specifically:
  - (i) The approach for the Gateshead Fund for 2017/18
  - (ii) Round 1 applications for capacity building funding
  - (iii) Sporting Grants to Individuals.
  - (iv) The early release of the Gateshead Fund to the Community Foundation.

### **Background**

2. This report has been prepared by The Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, in accordance with the agreement between the Council and the Community Foundation to administer and develop The Gateshead Fund.
3. The Council has agreed that the purpose of The Gateshead Fund (formerly the Capacity Building Fund) is to support voluntary organisations and community sector groups to build their capacity and sustainability.
4. The Fund is to increase organisations' skills / expertise to diversify their income, expand services or consider different ways of working (e.g. delivering services, collaboration and/or partnership working) so that they become more sustainable.
5. The Council has agreed that the overall aim is to achieve a thriving voluntary and community and social enterprise sector in Gateshead as a result of the following outcomes:
  - Increased capacity building and sustainability within the voluntary and community sector
  - Increased provision of services by the voluntary and community sector (commissioned by the Council and Gateshead Strategic Partnership)
  - Improved clarity and equity in commissioning processes
  - Simplified and proportionate application and assessment processes.
6. The Council has agreed a £400,000 budget for the Gateshead Fund in 2016/17: £334,000 for the Capacity Building Fund and £66,000 for the Local Community Fund.
7. In addition Cabinet agreed Advisory Group's recommendation of 16 February 2016, that the remaining £117,000 funding from 2016/17 should be carried forward to 2017/18. With the addition of returned funding allocated in 2016/17 this has resulted in a total budget for 2017/18 of £458,984

## Proposal

8. An agreement for the development and administration of the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland was signed in August 2016. This covers administration of the Capacity Building Fund; Gateshead Volunteers Month Small Grants and Sporting Grants to Individuals together with exploring the development and growth of the Fund (Capacity Building Fund) for the next 3 years.
9. The Council has agreed that applications to the Gateshead Fund will be considered by the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group who will give advice to Cabinet. This Advisory Group met on 31 March 2017 to consider the approach and principles on which allocations of the Gateshead Fund for 2017/18 will be made.
10. The Advisory Group agreed to continue with the Fund's 2016/17 principles but also approved the recommendations made by the Community Foundation to simplify the funding criteria, implement a more straightforward application form and rebrand the Fund to The Gateshead Fund. The simplified objectives for the Fund are to:
  - Develop the capacity of voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations in Gateshead
  - Support the provision of services by voluntary and community organisations in Gateshead
  - Create stronger communities in Gateshead by building on the voluntary efforts of residents, local community assets and the work of elected members in their wards.

A copy of the 2017/18 Gateshead Fund criteria is attached at Appendix 3.

11. The Gateshead Fund is an open application process for new and existing groups and organisations based or working in Gateshead. The Fund will support organisations to build their capacity and sustainability as well as small grassroots community groups to help the Council achieve the Council Plan outcomes:
  - Prosperous Gateshead
  - Live Love Gateshead
  - Live Well Gateshead
12. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group met on 8 September 2017 to consider the allocation of funding for the first round of applications.
13. 33 applications were received requesting a total amount of funding of £276,761. This includes 2 applications which Advisory Group recommended to be deferred from Round 3, 2016/17 pending further information. The Advisory Group has ensured that all organisations recommended for funding have demonstrably evidenced need and impact.
14. The Advisory Group recommended 16 funding applications are approved, totalling £144,982.
15. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group for Round 1 applications is at Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 4.

16. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group agreed that £10,000 from the Capacity Building Fund should be allocated to fund groups to support volunteering and take part in Gateshead Volunteers Month 2017.
17. The aim was to provide small grants to enable VCS groups to take part in Volunteers Month events to:
  - Raise awareness of the benefits of volunteering
  - Help the Council to deliver the Council Plan priorities
  - Creating the conditions for economic growth
  - Improving health and wellbeing
  - Creating capacity through volunteering
  - Deliver the aims of the Gateshead Volunteer Plan.
18. Examples of what could be funded included:
  - Cost of materials / hire of equipment
  - Promotion and publicity materials
  - Volunteer expenses
  - Support volunteering opportunities generally
19. There was a fast track assessment process – i.e. a short application form outlining:
  - Name of group
  - Information on which event(s) the group wanted to attend
  - Breakdown of total costs
  - Bank account details
  - Copy of constitution and accounts.
20. Similar to previous years, it was a rolling programme of approvals before 30 June 2017, with applications circulated to the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group for approval by the Community Foundation.
21. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group to support Volunteers Month Small Grants 2017 is attached at Appendix 5.
22. The budget for Sporting Grants to Individuals is £12,000 a year, offering support to talented individuals to compete in events such as the Olympics and Commonwealth Games and other major international events. This is in addition to the retrospective awards for individuals who compete on an individual basis or selected for a team.
23. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group for Sporting Grants to Individuals is at Appendix 2 paragraph 4.
24. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group noted the progress for the research project designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund.
25. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group considered and agreed a request by the Community Foundation that the funds from The Gateshead Fund should be released to the Foundation prior to each round in order to reduce the current time delay between applications submitted and the receipt of awards. Releasing the funds prior to each round will enable the Community Foundation to make awards immediately after Cabinet has accepted the recommendations provided by the Advisory Group.

## Recommendations

26. Cabinet is recommended to approve the advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group from 8 September 2017 and in particular:

- i. The approach for The Gateshead Fund for 2017/18 as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11, and Appendix 3
- ii. The recommendations for Round 1 of The Gateshead Fund as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 4.
- iii. The recommendations for Gateshead Volunteers Month as set out in Appendix 5
- iv. The recommendations for Sporting Grants to Individuals as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4.
- v. The recommendation that the Council releases The Gateshead Fund allocation prior to each round to enable awards to be made to applicants immediately after the Council has accepted the recommendations provided by the Advisory Group as set out in paragraph 25 and Appendix 2 paragraph 5.1.

For the following reasons:

- To ensure that the Gateshead Fund is used to maximise benefits to local communities and is managed effectively.
- To build capacity and sustainability in voluntary and community organisations in Gateshead.

---

**CONTACT:** Linda Whitfield

Ext: 2836

### Policy Context

1. The Council is committed to supporting and maintaining a vibrant voluntary and community sector in the Borough. The Council funds voluntary and community sector organisations, supporting their running costs, specific activities and building their capacity. The Council asks organisations to demonstrate how activities support the Council's policies and priorities (Vision 2030 and the Council Plan).

### Background

2. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group met on 31 March 2017 to consider the approach for The Gateshead Fund during 2017/18. It also met on 8 September 2017 to consider the first round of 2017/18 funding applications from voluntary and community organisations as well as Gateshead Volunteers Month and Sporting Grants to Individuals.
3. An agreement for the development and administration of the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland was signed in August 2016. This covers administration of the Capacity Building Fund; Gateshead Volunteers Month Small Grants and Sporting Grants to Individuals, together with exploring the development and growth of the Fund (Capacity Building Fund) for the next 3 years.

### Consultation

4. This report has been prepared following consultation with The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group.

### Alternative Options

5. The applications have been recommended based on the Gateshead Fund criteria. The Council could decide not to award any funding to voluntary and community organisations. This would prevent the Council meeting its priorities in Vision 2030 and the Council Plan.

### Implications of Recommended Option

6. **Resources:**
  - a) **Financial Implications** – These are set out in the financial summary within Appendix 2.
  - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no human resources implications for the Council from the proposals.
  - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications for the Council from the proposals.

7. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no risk management implications for the Council from the proposals.
8. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The applications will support the voluntary and community sector to deliver services to vulnerable groups across Gateshead.
9. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications for the Council from the proposals.
10. **Health Implications** - The applications will support the voluntary and community sector to deliver services and Public Health priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups across Gateshead.
11. **Sustainability Implications** - The applications will support the sustainability of the voluntary and community sector based and working in Gateshead.
12. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no Human Rights implications for the Council from the proposals.
13. **Area and Ward Implications** - The applications will support all wards in the Borough as membership of some of the organisations concerned is drawn from across the Borough.

#### **Background Information**

14. The minutes and papers for the Gateshead Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017.