

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

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

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group to Cabinet, specifically:
  - (i) Round 2 applications for funding from the Gateshead Fund
  - (ii) Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme.

### **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. 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. 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. Council has agreed a £400,000 budget for the Gateshead Fund in 2017/18: £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<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 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 by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland was signed in August 2016. This also covers administration of the Main Fund, Gateshead Volunteers Month Small Grants and Sporting Grants to Individuals together with exploring the development and growth of the Fund for the next three years.
9. 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<sup>st</sup> March 2017 to consider the approach and principles on which allocations of the Gateshead Fund for 2017/18 will be made.
10. 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.
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 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to consider the allocation of funding for the second round of applications.
13. 22 applications were received requesting a total amount of funding of £186,530. This includes two applications which were subsequently withdrawn and one which was tabled as an exceptional circumstance. 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 £99,363.
15. The Advisory Group recommended that 1 application for funding should be deferred pending further information being provided. A further application was also deferred however Advisory Group recommended a proportion of the funding request should be supported. It is proposed that officers and the Community Foundation will work

with the organisations and that they are invited to re-submit a revised application, following assessment feedback.

16. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group for Round 2 applications is at Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 3.
17. 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.
18. 21 applications have been recommended, totalling £5,100.
19. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group for Sporting Grants to Individuals and Talented Athletes is at Appendix 2 paragraph 4.
20. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group noted the progress for the research project designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund; this will be presented by the Community Foundation at a special Advisory Group meeting in early December 2017.

## **Recommendations**

21. Cabinet is recommended to approve the advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and specifically:
  - i. The recommendations for Round 2 of The Gateshead Fund, as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 3.
  - ii. The recommendations for Sporting Grants to Individuals and Talented Athletes as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4.

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.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to consider the second round of 2017/18 funding applications from voluntary and community organisations as well as Sporting Grants to Individuals.
3. An agreement for the development and administration of the Gateshead Fund by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland was signed in August 2016. This covers administration of the Main Fund; Gateshead Volunteers Month Small Grants and Sporting Grants to Individuals, together with exploring the development and growth of the Gateshead Fund for the next three 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 Fund Advisory Group meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.