

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Gateshead Fund 2017/18 Round Three 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 3 applications for funding from the Gateshead Fund
  - (ii) Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme
  - (iii) The approach for the Gateshead Fund 2018/19.

### **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> February 2018 to consider the allocation of funding for the third round of applications.
13. 17 applications were received requesting a total amount of funding of £131,800. This includes one application which was subsequently withdrawn. The Advisory Group has ensured that all organisations recommended for funding have demonstrably evidenced need and impact.
14. The Advisory Group recommended 10 funding applications are approved, totalling £77,351.

15. The Advisory Group recommended that one application for funding should be deferred pending further information being provided.
16. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group for Round 3 applications is at Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 3.
17. The budget for Sporting Grants to Individuals is £12,000 per 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. 17 applications have been recommended, totalling £4,000.
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 update on the research project, designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund. A facilitated session with voluntary and community organisations was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, which resulted in useful information being collected on the issues facing groups in the Borough, the support the Council could offer and the future direction for the Gateshead Fund.
21. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group noted the update on release of funding to the Community Foundation before each round.
22. The advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group was sought as to whether the remaining budget of £116,006 should be carried over to 2018/19 to mitigate against the proposed reduction in the Gateshead Fund for 2018/19.

### **Proposed approach for The Gateshead Fund 2018/19**

23. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group's advice was sought on the approach to the Gateshead Fund for 2018/19.
24. Council has agreed a budget of £300,000 for The Gateshead Fund for 2018/19. The breakdown of the Fund is set out below:
  - Local Community Fund - £66,000
  - Gateshead Fund (main Fund) - £202,000
  - Gateshead Volunteers Month - £20,000
  - Sporting Grants to Individuals - £12,000
25. The proposals are based on the Community Foundation's Research Report recommendations, comments from the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group and feedback from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) engagement event. They set out how the Gateshead Fund could be effectively utilised for the benefit of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and communities in Gateshead. The Report recommendations provide the opportunity to consider how, from 2018/19, a future Gateshead Fund could be redefined so that it works harder, in some cases collaboratively, and more effectively, to support VCSE organisations

and communities in Gateshead to deliver the Council's new approach and pledges, whilst acknowledging diminishing Council resources.

26. It is proposed that the principle of the Gateshead Fund will remain unchanged and will focus on delivering the ambitions within *'Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives'* by:
- Developing the capacity of community, voluntary and social enterprise sector organisations in Gateshead
  - Supporting the provision of services by voluntary and community organisations in Gateshead
  - Creating stronger communities in Gateshead by building on the voluntary efforts of residents, local community assets and the work of elected members in their wards
  - Encouraging and supporting residents to help out in their communities (volunteering).
27. To support the Council's approach to tackling inequality and reflecting the ambition to make a place where everybody in Gateshead thrives, the fund could be renamed to the Gateshead Thrive Fund.
28. Priorities within the Gateshead Fund could include:
- Projects which support the most vulnerable neighbourhoods in Gateshead and/or the most vulnerable residents.
  - Building social capital and increasing active participation by residents within communities.
  - Projects which address poverty.
  - Supporting and enabling volunteering.
  - Gateshead Volunteers Month – June 2018. The annual Gateshead Volunteers Month small grants should continue to support the growth and development of volunteers as well as celebrating their contribution. For 2018/19 it is proposed that £20,000 of the Gateshead Fund is ring fenced for Gateshead Volunteers Month, providing grants up to £500. It will remain a fast track application process with recommendations circulated weekly to the Advisory Group.
  - Projects which mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.
  - Projects which complement and/or enhance the Great Exhibition of the North.
29. It is proposed that the Gateshead Fund is divided into three strands, which include opportunities for a wide range of organisations, scales of funding and ways to access support. The options range from:
- Community Grants between £500 and £1,500 for small grassroots organisations.
  - Collaboration with the Newcastle City Futures pilot matched Crowdfunding platform to provide the opportunity for The Gateshead Fund to 'go further' and lever in additional support from the private sector and individuals. A budget of £30,000 will be ring-fenced from the 2018/19 Gateshead Fund.
  - Support for key delivery organisations with grants between £1,501 and £10,000.

Appendix 4 sets out briefly the purpose and rationale for each strand.

30. The Gateshead Fund Advisory Group noted the update on the Community Foundation's attendance at the CLLD launch event.

## Recommendations

31. Cabinet is recommended to approve the advice of the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group from 20 February 2018 and specifically:

- i. The recommendations for Round 3 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.
- iii. The recommendation to carry over the remaining budget of £116,006 to 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 5.2.
- iv. The agreed approach to the Gateshead Fund as set out in paragraphs 23 to 27 of this report, Appendix 2 paragraph 5.3 and Appendix 4; in particular the in-principle agreement to support the Newcastle City Futures' matched Crowdfunding platform with £30,000 from the Gateshead Fund.

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 February 2018 to consider the third round of 2017/18 funding applications from voluntary and community organisations as well as Sporting Grants to Individuals and the approach for the Gateshead Fund from 2018/19.
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> February 2018.