

TITLE OF REPORT: **Gateshead Thrive Fund 2018/19 Round One Applications**

REPORT OF: **Anthony Alder, Acting Strategic Director, Communities and Environment**

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the recommendations of the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group to Cabinet, specifically:
 - (i) Round 1 applications for funding from the Gateshead Thrive 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 Thrive Fund.
3. Council has agreed that the purpose of The Gateshead Thrive Fund (formerly the Capacity Building Fund/Gateshead Fund) is to support voluntary organisations and community sector groups to build their capacity and sustainability, to achieve funding stability and to plan for the future. The Fund encourages different ways of working (e.g. delivering services, collaboration and/or partnership working) so that the organisation can become more sustainable.

Financial position

4. The Council agreed a budget of £300,000 for The Gateshead Thrive Fund for 2018/19, comprising the Local Community Fund £66,000, and Thrive Main Fund £234,000.
5. In addition, Cabinet agreed Advisory Group's recommendation of 20th February 2018, that the remaining £117,000 funding from 2017/18 should be carried forward to 2018/19. With the addition of returned funding allocated in 2017/18 this has resulted in a total available budget for 2018//19 of £443,360.
6. The budget for Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme 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.

Advice from the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group

7. The Advisory Group met on 18th September 2018 to consider the allocation of funding for the first round of applications from the main fund. 19 applications were received requesting a total amount of funding of £189,608.
8. The Advisory Group recommended 11 funding applications are approved, totalling £112,792, the recommendations for round 1 are attached at Appendix 2 paragraph 4, and Appendix 3.
9. The Advisory Group also considered applications for Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme. 30 applications for Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme have been recommended, totalling £7,600 and are attached at Appendix 2 paragraph 4.
10. The Advisory Group agreed the proposal to approve Talented Athlete/Sporting Grants to Individuals applications on a rolling basis via an email process with Cabinet sign off following Advisory Group meetings. This proposal addresses the issue that many applicants may have to wait a considerable time for payment of their grants, which could lead to hardship, as many may be from low-income households.
11. The Advisory Group has ensured that all organisations recommended for funding have demonstrably evidenced need and impact. The minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendations

12. Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations of the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group from 18th September 2018 and to:
 - i. Approve the recommendations for Round 1 of The Gateshead Thrive Fund, as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 3.
 - ii. Approve the recommendations for Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4.
 - iii. Approve the recommendation from Advisory Group regarding the Talented Athlete/Sporting Grants applications proposal as set out in paragraph 14 of this report. .

For the following reasons:

- To ensure that the Gateshead Thrive 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: Tony Alder

Ext: 3880

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 Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives).

Background

2. A three-year agreement for the development and administration of the Gateshead Thrive Fund (formerly the Capacity Building Fund/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 Programme, Community Grants Programme, and Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme, together with exploring the development and growth of the Gateshead Fund.
3. The Gateshead Thrive Fund is an open application process for new and existing groups and organisations based or working in Gateshead and delivering activities and services for the benefit of local people. The Fund will support organisations to build their capacity and sustainability as well as small grassroots community groups to help the Council's five pledges within its five-year strategic approach, 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives':
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything we do
 - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
 - Support our communities to support themselves and each other
 - Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead
4. The Council has agreed that applications to the Gateshead Fund will be considered by the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group, who will make recommendations to Cabinet. Advisory Group met on 18th September 2018 to consider the first round of 2018/19 funding applications from voluntary and community organisations, as well as Sporting Grants to Individuals/Talented Athlete Scheme.
5. Advisory Group agreed to continue with the Fund's 2017/18 principles and the recommendation to rebrand the Fund the The Gateshead Thrive Fund. The Main Grants Programme is intended to support organisations to achieve funding stability and plan for the future. Funding is available to support:
 - business and financial planning
 - the development of new ways of working
 - capacity building activity, including staff, volunteer and management committee training, strengthening organisational structures and systems
 - the costs of asset transfers

Consultation

6. This report has been prepared following consultation with the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group.
7. The fund priorities have been agreed following discussion on the Community Foundation's Research Report recommendations, comments from the Gateshead Fund Advisory Group and feedback from the VCS engagement event. They set out how the Gateshead Fund could be effectively utilised for the benefit of the VCSE and communities in Gateshead.

Alternative Options

10. The applications have been recommended based on the Gateshead Thrive Fund criteria. The Council could decide not to award any funding to voluntary and community organisations however this would prevent the Council investing in support to community organisations and charities in Gateshead which could have a detrimental effect on the viability of the sector and Gateshead residents.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the financial proposals set out within the report can be met from the current Gateshead Thrive Fund budget.

A financial summary is attached at 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.

12. **Risk Management Implication** - There are no risk management implications for the Council from the proposals.

13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The applications will support the voluntary and community sector to deliver services to vulnerable groups across Gateshead.

14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications for the Council from the proposals.

15. **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.

16. **Sustainability Implications** - The applications will support the sustainability of the voluntary and community sector based and working in Gateshead.
17. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no Human Rights implications for the Council from the proposals.
18. **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

The minutes and papers for the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group meeting held on 18th September 2018 are appended to this report.