

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Gateshead Thrive Fund 2019/20 Applications

**REPORT OF:** Colin Huntington, Strategic Director Housing,  
Environment and Healthy Communities

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the recommendations of the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group for applications to the main fund.

### **Background**

2. The Gateshead Thrive Fund's purpose 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.
3. The Gateshead Thrive Fund provides 3 programmes to apply to – the Main Fund, a Community Grants Programme and Sporting Grants to Individuals.
4. This report has been prepared by the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, in accordance with the agreement between the Council and the Community Foundation to administer and develop The Gateshead Thrive Fund.
5. To speed up the allocation of funds to small community groups and individuals, it has previously been agreed that the Community Grants Programme and Sporting Grants to Individuals will be approved by Advisory Group to ensure funds are released at the earliest opportunity. Cabinet will continue to consider recommendations for the Main Fund (Minute C179 refers, 20 March 2018).

### **Financial position**

4. The Council agreed a budget of £205,000 for 2019/20. £66,000 of this was made available to the Local Community Fund for ward councillors to allocate to community projects in their wards (up to £3,000 per ward). The remaining £139,000 was to be allocated through the 3 programmes described in paragraph 3.
5. In addition, £10,550 in returned/withdrawn grants from 2018/19 was added to the fund, giving an overall total of £149,550.
6. So far, £16,543 has been allocated through the Community Grants Programme which provides small grants of up to £2,000.

7. The budget for Sporting Grants to Individuals / Talented Athlete Scheme is £10,000 and offers support to talented individuals to compete in events such as the Olympics and Commonwealth Games and other major international events. £8,800 has been allocated to individuals this financial year.
8. If Cabinet approve the recommendations of the Advisory Group this would leave £9,942 remaining in the budget.

### **Advice from the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group**

9. The Advisory Group met on 20 November 2019 to consider the allocation of funding for applications to the main Thrive Fund. 17 applications were received, requesting a total amount of funding of £156,120.
10. The Advisory Group recommended that 12 funding applications are approved, totalling £114,265, the recommendations for which are attached at Appendix 2 paragraph 4, and Appendix 3.
11. The Advisory Group also considered seven applications for the Community Grants Programme. Of these, four were approved for funding through the fast-track approval process.
12. 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**

13. Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations of the Gateshead Thrive Fund Advisory Group from 20 November 2019 and to approve the recommendations for The Gateshead Thrive Fund, as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 and Appendix 3.

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.

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### 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 (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. A one-year extension to the agreement was approved in 2019, covering the Main Fund and the Community Grants Programme, incorporating Gateshead Volunteers' Month.
4. 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
5. 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 20 November 2019 to consider 2019/20 funding applications from voluntary and community organisations.
6. Advisory Group agreed to continue with the Fund's 2018/19 principles and the recommendation to rebrand the Fund to 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 were 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 Thrive Fund can benefit of the VCSE and communities in Gateshead.

## Alternative Options

8. 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

### 9. Resources:

- a **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital, 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.

10. **Risk Management Implication** – The appraisal process carried out as part of the application assessment and ongoing project monitoring will help minimise any risks associated with the projects.
11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The applications will support the voluntary and community sector to deliver services to vulnerable groups across Gateshead.

12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications for the Council from the proposals.
13. **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.
14. **Sustainability Implications** - The applications will support the sustainability of the voluntary and community sector based and working in Gateshead.
15. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no Human Rights implications for the Council from the proposals.
16. **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 20 November 2019 are appended to this report.