

TITLE OF REPORT: **Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund)**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the advice of Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group to Cabinet, specifically in respect of:
 - (i) Round 3 applications for capacity building funding
 - (ii) Sporting Grants to Individuals
 - (iii) The Research Project progress report designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund.

Background

2. The Council has agreed that the purpose of the Capacity Building Fund is to support voluntary organisations and community sector groups (infrastructure and delivery) to build capacity and sustainability.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. A further £100,000 from Public Health was also agreed. The primary purpose of the funding is to enable voluntary and community organisations to apply for small amounts of funding to build capacity within the Integrated Wellness model. It was agreed that the fund will be part of the Capacity Building Fund.

7. In addition Cabinet agreed Advisory Group's recommendation of 19th February 2016, that the remaining £56,267 funding from 2015/16 should be carried forward to 2016/17 which has resulted in a total budget of £490,267

Proposal

8. The Council has agreed that applications to the Capacity Building Fund will be considered by the Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group who will give advice to Cabinet. This Advisory Group met on 22 June 2016 to consider the approach and principles on which allocations of the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) for 2016/17 will be made.
9. Cabinet has agreed to continue with the same objectives and approach as 2015/16 with a few minor changes. These include; 3 new objectives:
 - Developing and mobilising volunteers
 - Supporting building relationships within communities
 - Supporting residents to build their communities and improve what is already there.
10. An agreement for the development and administration of the Gateshead Fund (Capacity Building Fund) by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland was established 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.
11. The Capacity Building Fund is an open application process for new and existing groups and organisations based or working in Gateshead. It was agreed that in 2016/17, The Capacity Building Fund will support organisations to build their capacity and sustainability as well as small grassroots community groups to help the Council achieve the following objectives:
 - Achievement of Council Plan outcomes:
 - Prosperous Gateshead
 - Live Love Gateshead
 - Live Well Gateshead
 - Developing and mobilising volunteers
 - Supporting building relationships within communities
 - Supporting residents to build their communities and improve what is already there
 - Increased capability, capacity and sustainability in the voluntary and community sector
 - Maximising the opportunities of funding - including exploration of different funding models, leverage of other funding, and collaborations.
 - Support health and wellbeing activities which improve healthy lifestyles and environments which support Public Health priorities as identified in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.
12. The Advisory Group met on 16 February 2017 to consider the allocation of funding for the third round of applications.

13. 25 applications were received requesting a total amount of funding of £185,704. This includes 3 applications which Advisory Group recommended to be deferred from Round 2 pending further information. Out of the 25 applications, 2 applications (8%) were for small grants of less than £2,000. The Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group has ensured that all organisations recommended for funding have demonstrably evidenced need and impact.
14. The Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group recommended 15 funding applications are approved, totalling £105,337.
15. The Advisory Group recommended that 2 applications for funding should be deferred pending further information being provided.
16. The advice of the Capacity Building 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 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. The advice of the Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group for Sporting Grants to Individuals is at appendix 2 paragraph 4.
19. The Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group noted and approved a progress report provided by the Community Foundation for the research project designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund.
20. The Advisory Group considered the remaining, unallocated, Capacity Building Fund budget and indicated that they wish the remaining budget to be carried over to the 2017/18 Financial Year.
21. It was also noted that applications that were unsuccessful in securing support from Round 2 of the Capacity Building Fund were referred to other funds at the Community Foundation. To date, 6 of the applications, plus one which arrived too late for Capacity Building Fund consideration, have been supported with a total of £8,695 of funding.
22. A copy of the Community Foundation research project progress report is at appendix 4

Recommendations

23. Cabinet is recommended to approve the advice of the Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group from 16 February 2017 and specifically:
 - i. The recommendations for Round 3 Capacity Building Fund as set out in appendix 2 paragraph 4 and appendix 3.
 - ii. The recommendations for Sporting Grants to Individuals as set out in appendix 2 paragraph 4.

- iii. The progress report, timeline and outcomes for the research project designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund as set out in appendix 2 paragraph 3 and appendix 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.

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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 (Vision 2030 and the Council Plan).

Background

2. The Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group met on 16 February 2017 to consider the third round of 2016/17 funding applications from voluntary and community organisations as well as Sporting Grants to Individuals and a progress report on the research project designed to grow and develop the Gateshead Fund.
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 established 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 Capacity Building Fund Advisory Group. The Cabinet Members for Communities and Volunteering have been consulted on this proposal.

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 16th February 2017.