

TITLE OF REPORT: **The Impact of the Gateshead Fund 2017-18: a case study**

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

Summary

The purpose of the report is to seek Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views on the impact of the Gateshead Fund during 2017/18, looking at how it has helped to support, develop and build capacity in the voluntary and community sector and thereby help strengthen Gateshead's local communities.

Introduction

1. The Gateshead Fund was established in 2011 to support, develop and build capacity in the Borough's voluntary and community sector in the sector and to help strengthen communities. The outcomes of the Gateshead Fund are:
 - Increased capacity building and sustainability within the voluntary and community sector
 - Increased provision of services by the voluntary and community sector
 - Improved clarity and equity in commissioning processes
 - Simplified and proportionate application and assessment processes
 - Developing and mobilising volunteers
 - Supporting building relationships within communities
 - Supporting residents to build their communities and improve what is already there
 - Retention and expansion of councillor community champion role.

The Gateshead Fund 2017/18 allocation and administration

2. In March 2017, the Fund's Advisory Group recommended amendments to the Fund were agreed by Cabinet, including some rebranding, simplified fund criteria and a more straightforward application process. Council agreed a £334,000 budget for the Fund for 2017/18 which, together with agreed carryover of underspend and returned funds, equated to an overall budget of £458,984 allocated as follows:

Gateshead Fund	£435,984
Gateshead Volunteers Month Grant	£10,000
Talented Athlete / Sporting Individuals funding	£13,200

3. The Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland continues to administer the Fund in accordance with its 3-year agreement with the Council, which currently runs until July 2019.

Impact of the Gateshead Fund in 2017/18

4. Capacity Building Fund

The annual impact review of the Gateshead Fund has been written and produced by the Community Foundation, and accompanies this report in Appendix 1. It mirrors the style typically prepared by the Foundation for other funds it administers on behalf of trusts and endowments. It features a breakdown of how the Fund has been allocated during the year, including examples of some of the applications; a breakdown of the Volunteers' Month small grants and Sporting Grants for Individuals.

5. Local Community Fund

The Local Community Fund allocation of £3,000 per ward was agreed by Cabinet and Council in February 2017 as part of the Gateshead Fund budget proposal. The £66,000 budget is part of the Gateshead Fund, but is administered by the Neighbourhood Management and Volunteering Team outside of the main Fund arrangements. As in previous years, the majority of activities supported were small in scale and locally focussed, delivered by local groups within communities. Over the year, £40,400 helped support over 60 projects, ranging from events and activities across the Christmas festive season, school holiday activities for children and families, equipment for communal lounges and community festivals.

Summary

6. The Gateshead Fund continues to provide a valuable financial resource that supports the viability and sustainability for a number of Gateshead's community groups and organisations, helping them to maintain their positive impact in the community and contribution to the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Recommendations

7. Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

Consider the impact of the Gateshead Fund in 2017/18 on:

- a. The voluntary and community sector in Gateshead
- b. Neighbourhoods and strengthening communities
- c. The extent to which the Gateshead Fund supports delivery of the Council Plan priorities.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Impact of the Gateshead Capacity Building Fund 2017/18: report by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

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Appendix 1

Impact of the Gateshead Capacity Building Fund 2017/18: report by the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland