

TITLE OF REPORT: UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Gateshead
Community Chest Fund

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of the recommendations of the UKSPF Gateshead Community Chest Fund Panel.

Background -

2. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.
3. The Community Chest Programme aims to support voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations, based or working in Gateshead to develop and deliver new or enhanced activities and projects. Projects must address the key objectives of the Council's Thrive agenda and the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.
4. Following consultation with Legal, Procurement and the External Funding Project Team, the Community Foundation were appointed to manage the funding process. As part of the process, the Foundation presented suitable applications from eligible groups to an independent panel of Council representatives and stakeholders to make recommendations on which projects should be funded.

Proposal

5. The total recommended funding allocated during the UKSPF Panel meeting was £325,753. If approved the funds will be distributed to 28 successful groups in the first week of April 2024. Some of the groups who have been recommended for funding will receive extra conditions which will be stated clearly in the offer agreements. **See appendix 2 for the list of accepted and rejected projects.**
6. On approval of the recommendations, a single transaction via the Agresso system will release the money to the Community Foundation. The Foundation will then distribute the funding subject to the organisations agreeing to the terms and conditions contained in an offer letter. The Foundation will receive a 7% levy of for their work associated with the grant approval process

(£22,802.71). Groups can then begin to deliver the projects that they have proposed.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) supports the recommendations of the UKSPF Community Fund Panel;
and
- (ii) approves the transfer of £348,555.71 to The Community Foundation to distribute the funding, subject to the successful organisations agreeing to the terms and conditions contained in an offer letter.

For the following reasons:

- (i) The UKSPF Panel and Culture, Sport and Leisure Portfolio agree that the recommendations meet the funding criteria and will benefit the residents of Gateshead.
- (ii) Release of the money will allow projects to start and spend the Levelling Up Money allocated to this funding project.

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Policy Context

1. Gateshead Council's Community Chest Grant Programme is an open bidding grant fund administered on behalf of the Council by the Community Foundation. The fund allows Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) organisations to apply for grants of up to £10,000 to create and deliver their own project activity which meets the needs of their specific locality. Groups could also apply for up to £20,000 to undertake feasibility studies.
2. The Community Chest Programme aims to support organisations to develop and deliver new or enhanced activities and projects addressing the key objectives of the Council's Thrive agenda and the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

Background

3. The primary goal of UKSPF is to *build pride in place* and increase life chances across the UK. This fund replaces a range of grant funded programmes including European Social Funding (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The funding is an opportunity to boost productivity and enhance employment opportunities, tackle inequalities, and deliver real change for Gateshead's communities, places, people, and businesses.
4. The UKSPF Community Chest Fund opened to applications on the 8th November and closed on the 18th December. The Community Foundation assessed 71 applications and presented a selection of high, medium and low priority projects to the UKSPF Panel on the 12th February.
5. A free webinar was held on the 24th November in order to provide information and advice to groups with an interest in applying for the fund. Over 64 groups logged in to the webinar. The Council's Locality Team and Connected Voice then provided support to any groups who required further advice.
6. Applicants had to be voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations, based or working in Gateshead. Organisations with an annual income of over £250,000 were required to provide an explanation of why the requested funding cannot be sought, either in whole or in part, from their unrestricted reserves or other alternative sources.
7. Examples of eligible organisations included:
 - Constituted voluntary or community organisations
 - Registered charities including charitable companies
 - Social enterprises, for example, Community Investment Companies and Co-operatives

In order to be eligible, non-charity social enterprises had to provide a plan explaining how the organisation is, or aims to be, financially resilient with trading as a core part of its income.

8. The UKSPF Community Chest Fund Programme **does not** fund:

- Contributions to general appeals or circulars
- Routine building or equipment repairs and maintenance
- Activities which have already taken place/retrospective funding
- Privately owned and profit-distributing companies or limited partnerships
- Organisations with unrestricted reserves that exceed one year's running costs
- Individuals
- Activities where the primary benefit is the advancement of religion
- Activities where the primary benefit is to enable a public body to carry out its statutory obligations
- Activities where the primary benefit is the advancement of animal welfare
- Grant-making or equivalent gifts in kind by other organisations (although we can fund provision of necessary goods for a service e.g., food parcels or activity packs)

Consultation

9. The UKSPF Community Chest Fund Panel was chaired on 12th February by Deputy Leader Councillor Donovan. The chair was joined by Councillor Kirton, Councillor Walker, External Funding Programme Manager Rachael Crooks, Localities Strategic Lead Peter Allen and Deputy Chief Executive of Connected Voice Giovanni Spatuzzi. Also in attendance to provide support to the panel was Adam Lopardo, Nils Stronach, Jo Cundall, Pete Barrett, Ged Robinson from the Community Foundation and Andrew Yates from the Council's Locality Team.
10. The Community Foundation presented all high and medium priority applications to the panel with discussion taking place around suitability and scope. Projects that did not meet the criteria, or duplicated existing work were rejected.
11. Each panel member received a report from the Foundation on the high and medium priority applications a week before the meeting. The report contained information on the strength of the organisations and the staff from the Foundation were able to answer specific question about the projects during the panel meeting as they had conducted visits and interviews as part of the report process to complement the desk top exercise carried out to determine suitability.
12. The UKSPF Panel's recommendations were presented to Culture, Sport and Leisure Portfolio on the 19th February. Portfolio supported the panel's recommendations.

Alternative Options

13. The funding could be reallocated to another one of the Council's UKSPF investment priorities. The March 2025 deadline for spending the money would make this a potentially difficult option.

Implications of Recommended Option

14. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – None.
 - c) **Property Implications** - None.
15. **Risk Management Implication** - The authorisation of funding represents a small amount of risk to the Council in that the Government could try to claw back money from underspent or unsuccessful projects.
16. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The recommended organisations support a diverse range of people throughout Gateshead.
17. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.
18. **Health Implications** – All of the project work supports the Thrive agenda and therefore improves the health and wellbeing of Gateshead residents.
19. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - There are no climate emergency or sustainability implications arising from this report.
20. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
21. **Ward Implications** - Appendix 2 sets out the ward connections and project summaries for the projects recommended for approval.
22. **Background Information** - None.

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
Community Chest Fund Programme 2024 – 2025**

**1:00pm 12 February 2024
Room S20 Gateshead Civic Centre**

Advisory Panel: Cllr. Catherine Donovan (Chair), Cllr. Councillor Leigh Kirton, Cllr. Kathryn Walker, Giovanni Spatuzzi, Rachael Crooks, Peter Allen

In attendance - Community Foundation: Adam Lopardo, Nils Stronach, Jo Cundall, Pete Barrett, Ged Robinson

In attendance – Gateshead Council: Andrew Yates

1: Declarations of interest

The following declarations were noted and the person did not take part in the decision-making process, leaving the room when the application was discussed.

- Ged Robinson – Blue Cabin CIO
- Pete Barrett – Ryton and Crawcrook Albion (Youth) Football Club CFC

2: Confidentiality

All attendees signed a confidentiality statement.

3: Fund Manager's report

Nils Stronach (NS) gave an overview of the fund and advised that a total of £335,079 was available for funding. Applications were assessed by the Community Foundation team and presented in priority order.

4: Decision-making

The Advisory panel discussed the applications and made awards, with additional requirements for grantees discussed and agreed: these are set out in the table at point 5 below.

Unsuccessful and rejected applications are set out at point 6.

There was some discussion around the following points, and grant offer letters and monitoring processes will include the following:

- Interim monitoring
- Additional text to confirm monitoring requirements
- Funding is ring-fenced for Gateshead residents.

**Nils Stronach
Head of Grant Practice and Programmes
12 February 2024**

5: Grants awarded

Organisation	Ward	Project summary	Amount awarded	Notes
The Soundroom Community Music Project	Lobley Hill and Bensham	core costs and project costs for mental health and learning disability workshops	£10,000	The grantee is requested to target residents from more deprived communities in Gateshead
Edberts House	Pelaw and Heworth	project costs to build volunteer led, sustainable local groups, where people can walk, exercise and eat together	£10,000	
Springwell Community Hub	High Fell	developing 2 youth clubs in Gateshead	£10,000	
Chopwell Regeneration CIO	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	Chopwell village repair and reuse shop	£10,000	
Teams & Bensham Community Care	Dunston and Teams	activities and projects for vulnerable older people in Gateshead	£10,000	
Bensham Grove Community Centre	Bensham	salary costs for a part-time administrator	£10,000	
Love Dunston	Dunston and Teams	New youth group for 13-17 year olds	£8,989	
GEM Arts	Bensham	artist workshops at Bensham Grove Community Centre and other community venues in Bridges Ward	£10,000	
Recovery Connections	Wardley and Leam Lane	purchasing a coffee bike and salary costs for an outreach worker	£9,265	
Methodist Homes (MHA)	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill + other West Gateshead wards	undertaking a study assessing the feasibility of a community transport model to be used by those aged 55 and over	£20,000	
Peace of Mind CIO	Saltwell	support and empower Gateshead refugee community with issues around digital, social and economic	£9,984	

		inclusion		
Tyne & Wear Centre Against Unemployment	Bridges	project costs to support benefit appeals and developing skills	£9,900	The grantee is requested to engage with Gateshead CAB/AgeUK Gateshead
Dunston Family Church	Dunston and Teams	a feasibility study for the building's future use	£20,000	
Jewish Community Council of Gateshead	Saltwell	project costs to fund a series of social events, get togethers and activities for women	£10,000	The grantee is requested to agree a new budget, to exclude contingency costs
NE Youth Ltd	Blaydon	enhancement of NE Youth's Winlaton Youth Group for ages 11-18.	£7,775	The grantee is requested to confirm that there is no duplication of budget costs from other funded work.
Tyneside Women's Health	Bridges	project costs towards the development of a pilot group for women with children under 2 and no access to childcare	£9,628	
Blaydon Youth and Community Centre	Blaydon	project costs for a food/cooking and activity-based series of four, 4-week programmes	£10,000	
Edberts House	Pelaw and Heworth	project costs to provide a programme of training to our volunteers across our four community houses	£10,000	
Edberts House	Pelaw and Heworth	Feasibility study to develop existing 'HAY' evaluation tool into a digital social prescribing assessment and evaluation solution could be	£17,300	

		marketed commercially		
Blue Cabin CIO	Saltwell	delivery of a trauma-informed creative project in partnership with Gateshead Virtual School	£10,000	
Ryton and Crawcrook Albion (Youth) Football Club CFC	Ryton Crookhill and Stella	commission a feasibility study on the club	£19,020	The grantee is requested to share learning from the work with Gateshead Council
The Comfrey Project CIO	Bridges	combined project and feasibility study	£29,907	
Handcrafted Projects	Deckham	employment costs of a Community Development Manager for 1 day a week	£10,000	
Low Fell Ukes	Low Fell	Ukulele Project reducing loneliness and social isolation in Gateshead	£9,675	
Methodist Homes (MHA)	Winlaton & High Spen	a new bi-weekly 'hub' providing choice and variety to older people living in High Spen	£9,720	
Out North East	Pelaw and Heworth	bringing together Gateshead's LGBTQ+ community, allies, businesses, retail establishments, service providers, and third-sector organisations	£9,265	
Kibblesworth & Lamesley Community Sports Club	Lamesley	extend our offering year round and to make the facility more accessible	£9,730	
Zero Limits WAP	Bridges	improve and expand the respite services for vulnerable SEND children and their families	£5,595	
			£325,753	

6: Rejected/unsuccessful applications

Organisation	Ward	Request Summary	Recommendation reason	Amount awarded
Marley Hill Community Bowling Club	High Fell	Core Costs	Core, not new or enhanced	£0
Integration Station CIC	Bridges	new project offering support and capacity building training to 14 Refugee Community Organizations (RCO) in Gateshead	Funds were limited and other applications were considered a higher priority for funding	£0
Pelaw Community Bowling Club	Pelaw and Heworth	creating three new intergenerational community activities during 2024	Repairs and maintenance: not a strong fit with fund priorities	£0
Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums Development Trust	Saltwell	continuing informal offer for people with English as a second language (ESL) to participate in conversations inspired by the Shipley Art Gallery	Continuation of existing work, limited potential impact	£0
Hertfordshire House Community Centre and Gardens CIO	Pelaw and Hewroth	core costs	Core, not new or enhanced	£0
Feeding Families	Blaydon	core costs for work in Gateshead	Core, not new or enhanced	£0
Chase Park Community Group	Dunston Hill and Whickham East	project costs to help the group to start operating	Limited event detail provided, not guaranteed to help vulnerable people	£0
Pelaw Petals	Pelaw and Heworth	weekly activities for older residents to improve health equity	Limited impact/low engagement numbers	£0
Wood Green Residents Association	Pelaw and Heworth	creative workshops and group visits to nature spots for those over 55	Limited impact as residents only and low engagement numbers	£0
Mulgrave Mixed Media	Bridges	a project to explore the history of the	Limited impact as	£0

		former Windmill Hills School which was set-up as an Industry School	residents only and low engagement numbers	
Business for Good NE CIC	Blaydon	establishing a supported employment scheme to run parallel with the supported self-employment already provided	Not restricted to Gateshead	£0
Ryton Methodist Church	Ryton Crookhill and Stella	a feasibility study on the Church building	Did not fit the criteria for a feasibility study application	£0
Beaky Blinders	Birtley and Lamesley	ageing well activities for residents of Pleasant Place Supported Housing Scheme, Birtley	Limited impact as residents only and low engagement numbers	£0
Youth Focus North East	Bridges	funding for Safe Space youth group	Core, not new or enhanced	£0
Chopwell Community Association	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	3 music events and a Ceilidh	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Leam Lane Community Bowling Club	Wardley and Leam Lane	core costs and equipment	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Heartbroken to Healed	Gateshead wide	supporting professionals in organisations dealing with Grief and Loss	Did not fit the criteria for a feasibility study application	£0
South Street Community Primary School	Dunston Hill and Whickham East	refurbishing the community kitchen facility and staffing costs	Statutory work	£0
St Chads Community Kitchen	Bensham	a feasibility study to explore the potential of adopting a collaborative model for a sustainable local food system	Replicates existing work and did not meet criteria for a feasibility Study application	£0
Felling Community Association	Felling	providing equipment for groups	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Boltons Bungalows	Chopwell and	activities for isolated and elderly adults	Application did not	£0

Residents Association	Rowlands Gill	in Chopwell	demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	
Pelaw Community Bowling Club	Pelaw and Heworth	feasibility study to improve the building	Did not fit the criteria for a feasibility study application	£0
Bensham Court Foodbank	Bensham	core costs	Not new or enhanced activity and limitation to residents only reduces priority, low engagement numbers	£0
NE Youth Ltd	Blaydon	conducting two interconnected feasibility studies	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Lovebirtleylamesley	Birtley and Lamesley	purchasing 8 trees in planters	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
The Kittiwake Trust	Lamesley	core costs	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
High Spen Social Action	Winlaton and High Spen	supporting residents of High Spen	Core, not new or enhanced	£0
Blenheim Court Creatives	Windy Nook and Whitehills	build on our exercise classes and run cross generational activities with pupils from Windy Nook Primary School	Limited impact as residents only and low engagement numbers	£0
Creative Friends	Saltwell, Blaydon	delivery of a year-long 'local legends' project celebrating the work of Gateshead cultural figures	Low beneficiary numbers and low impact	£0
The Palomino Trust	Blaydon	core and capital costs	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Edberts House	Pelaw and Heworth	seasonal activity programme benefiting residents of High Lanes, Old Fold and Nest, Beacon Lough East and Highfield	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Edberts House	Pelaw and	capital funding to make some internal	Ineligible - capital costs	£0

	Heworth	alterations to Highfield House		
Blue Cabin CIO	Saltwell	exploring feasibility of pre-care intervention for families in partnership with Gateshead Council's Pre-Birth Team	Funds were limited and other applications were considered a higher priority for funding	£0
Pride Community Network	Pelaw and Heworth	LGBTQ+ inclusivity workshops for organisations, businesses and service providers in Gateshead	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Active Future Gateshead CIC	Pelaw and Heworth	feasibility study exploring development of Heworth Welfare Park Site	Did not fit the criteria for a feasibility study application	£0
Harlow's Angels	Chowdene	wellbeing and creative activities between the school children and people 55+	Limited impact as residents only and low engagement numbers	£0
Carers Cultural Adventures	Whickham North	delivery of a year-long championing and support programme, to raise awareness of carer support needs and provide wellbeing activities	Limited impact/low engagement numbers	£0
Churches Together in Blaydon	Blaydon	Blaydon community larder	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
St Chad's Community Project	Bensham	costs related to building and outdoor space redevelopment	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Active Future Gateshead CIC	Pelaw and Heworth	new community activities at Heworth Bowling Green	Did not meet due diligence requirements for CICs	£0
Equal Arts	Newcastle	weekly activities for residents at Sister Winifred House care-facility in Felling	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0
Barley Mow Village Hall	Gateshead	a programme of sessions both for, and with, a group of local young people	Application did not demonstrate a strong fit to fund criteria	£0