

Report of the Strategic Director Place to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on Wednesday 22 February 2017

AA

Subject:

ALLOCATION OF THE DISTRICT WIDE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS GRANT (CBG) FOR 2017-19.

Summary statement:

This report outlines the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group, (made up of the five Area Chairpersons) for the allocation of the District Wide CBG 2017-19.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group, (made up of the five Area Chairpersons) for the allocation of the District Wide CBG 2017-19.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the budget decision on the 25th February 2016, Bradford Council agreed to reduce the discretionary support available to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations.

- 2.2 In setting the budget for 2016/17 onwards, three specific budget reductions were proposed in relation to rental subsidies, business rate relief and community development to take effect from 1st April 2017. These were:

a) Remove rent subsidies provided to VCS organisations

b) Reduce Community Development grants

c) Remove discretionary business rate relief to not for profit organisations

Community Centre Core Costs Grants were included with the three proposals as requested by the sector during the Council's budget consultation.

- 2.3 A review was undertaken of the different types of support given to the VCS and a proposal developed. This proposal merged the remaining support available into one Community Building Grant (CBG) and devolved the decision making to Area Committees in order to increase fairness, transparency and accountability.
- 2.4 The Review group concluded that the best way forward was to combine all remaining resources and establish a single process, based on an extended core costs model.
- 2.5 Bradford West Area Committee considered a report at its meeting on 23rd November 2016, which mentioned that, "*a ring-fenced allocation will be made available to support organisations supporting District Wide activity and community of interest groups. This will be allocated by Bradford West Area Committee as several district wide organisations are based in the city centre (Bradford West)*".
- 2.5 At the Bradford West Area Committee meeting on 23 November 2016 it was resolved that:-
- (1) That the proposed allocation process for Community Building Grants be noted.
 - (2) That the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator be requested to organise meetings of the Area Committee's Grant Advisory Group to consider Community Building Grant applications for funding from groups within the Bradford West Area.
 - (3) That the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator be requested to bring a report to the Bradford West Area Committee within the 2016-17 municipal year, with recommendations from the Grant Advisory Group on how to allocate the Community Building Grants funds available.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 On 23 January 2017, the Grants Advisory Group, made up of the five Chairpersons' of the Area Committees met to discuss the CBG Expressions of Interest (EOI) submitted from District Wide organisations. After full consideration of all the EOI the recommendations from the Chairs Grants Advisory Group were as follows:-

Name	Requested 2017-2018 £	Requested 2018-2019 £	GAG recommendation 2017-18 £	GAG Recommendation 2018-19 (subject to funding) £
Manningham Mills Sports & Community Association	£10,000	£10,000	£8,800	£8,800
Safety First Community Training Centre	£3,931.65	£3,931.65	£1,322	£1,322
The School Of Rock & Media Ltd	£3,200.00	£3,200.00	£0	£0
NEESIE	£4,742.00	£4,742.00	£0	£0
Bradford Community Broadcasting	£21,000	£21,000	£21,000	£21,000
Airedale Boat Club	£1,842	£1,842	£1,842	£1,842
Equity Partnership	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000
Sconce Camp Site (Aire Valley Scouts)	£8,371	£8,371	£1,500	£1,500
Contingency	0	0	£7,536	£7,536
TOTAL	£57,087	£57,087	£46,000	£46,000

- 3.2 For those groups that have been successful or unsuccessful in this process, support will be available from Bradford Council for Voluntary Service (BCVS) through one of the Voluntary Organisation Support Officers (VOSO). An additional VOSO will be employed for 12 months to help and assist VCS organisations with their funding application, Governance arrangements, training etc.
- 3.3 It is also the intention of the Council to set up a workshop in each constituency that will offer advice and support with fundraising to mitigate the loss of funding.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The amount of funding available per annum for District Wide organisations was £46,000 for 2017-18 and £46,000 for 2018-19 (the second year being subject to funding being available).

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 Non-specific.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 This work relates directly to the Local Government Act 2000 and to the Duty of Well-being placed upon the Council to promote and improve the well-being of the District.
- 6.2 Under the Councils Constitution at Article 12, the Executive can delegate/devolve the discharge of functions to Area Committees. In discharging these functions, all decisions made must be in accordance with policies, strategies, plans or criteria agreed by the Council or Executive and within the approved budget.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 7.1.1 The progressive distribution of grants to Areas with higher level needs will aid the development of initiatives which reduce inequalities.
- 7.1.2 Priorities supported will promote fairness and inclusion while supporting Bradford West Area Committee's commitment to equal opportunities for all, including those protected characteristics identified within the Equalities Act 2010.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 Resources available to Bradford West Area Committee, described in this report, and used to support the Ward Plans and will directly support the delivery of the District's Plan and promote and contribute to the People Can Make a difference approach.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- 7.3.1 Actions to assist in identifying the greenhouse gas impacts of potential projects to be funded through this budget will be undertaken. These will include a consideration of, for example, energy efficiency opportunities in purchasing new equipment or refurbishing or modifying buildings.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- 7.5.1 None.

7.6 TRADE UNION

- 7.6.1 There are no implications related to Trade Unions arising from this report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 7.7.1 The activity outlined in this report affects the whole district and all organisations which currently receive buildings related support. The creation and devolution of the

Community Building Fund to Area Committees will establish a more tailored provision and more accountability at a ward level.

7.8 WARD PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.8.1 The activities outlined in this report contribute to priorities within the Ward Plans.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Bradford West Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.

9.2 Bradford West Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.

9.3 Bradford West Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That Bradford West Area Committee approves the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Group (made up of Chairpersons of the five Area Committees) for the District wide CBG outlined in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

10.2 That the five Area Chairpersons reconvene as the Grants Advisory Group, within six months, to determine the allocation of the contingency funds in the District Wide CBG.

10.5 That the five Area Chairpersons be thanked for their active participation in the CBG allocation across Bradford West and District Wide.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 The Allocation of Community Buildings Grants (Extended Community Centre Core Costs), Document R, Bradford West Area Committee, 23 November 2016.