

Report of the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood and Customer Services to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 20 September 2017

L

Subject:

The Great Get Together Small Grants Programme 2017

Summary statement:

The report informs the Bradford West Area Committee of the projects funded by the Great Get Together Small Grants Programme for the Bradford West constituency.

Ian Day
Assistant Director – Neighbourhood
and Customer Services

Report Contact: Anna Frater

Phone: (01274) 431498
E-mail: anna.frater@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:

Neighbourhood & Community Safety

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The report informs the Bradford West Area Committee of the projects funded by the Great Get Together small grants programme for the Bradford West area. The report will highlight the range of activities supported through the programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Great Get Together (TGGT) Small Grants Programme 2017 has been funded by the Community Safety Fund in the amount of £25,000. The Bradford Community Safety Partnership made the money available to support the programme to encourage local groups to get involved in the governments, national, Big Lunch initiative delivered by the Eden Project.

The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get together for neighbours. Every year in June since the idea began in 2009 people up and down the country t together with their neighbours in a nationwide act of community and friendship. This year the Big Lunch hosted The Great Get-Together initiative in partnership with the Jo Cox Foundation, which had an emphasis on promoting and encouraging good community relations and reminding people and communities that we have **#more in common**

People from all backgrounds have been encouraged to participate and to get together with their friends, neighbours and others who they don't yet know, to hold street parties, picnics, barbeques, bake-offs, Iftars and Lunar Lunches. The emphasis is on sharing a simple meal/snack as a means of bringing people together.

Initially it was agreed that £20,000 of the funding would be distributed through the Area Committees via their Grant Advisory Groups (GAGs). Each of the five areas would receive an allocation of £4,000, which would be given out in small grants up to a maximum amount of £200 each. This arrangement had to be changed as a result of the early General Election being called. In response to legal opinion at the time it was agreed to run the grants programme centrally, overseen and managed by officers. Stronger Communities officers worked in partnership with Ward Officers from each of the constituencies and together they oversaw the distribution of the funds. The previous agreed amount of spend for each area remained the same (£4,000).

- **The sum of £20,000 was made available to be spent between each of the 5 area constancies to support Great Get Together activities.**
- **£5,000 was allocated to the Stronger Communities team to be spent on the Great Get Together Big Picnic and Big Iftar public events held in City Park on 18th June 2017.**

- 2.2 This funding opportunity gives communities the opportunity to come together. The cost of disconnected communities is known to increase crime, contribute to poor health, isolation and deprivation.

The broad aims of the TGGT Funds are to:

- Encourage and Increase Neighbourliness (one of our People Can priority themes)

- Help to connect people to each other and the area where they live, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation
- Help to build stronger communities as people will be able to get to know each other and establish new relationships
- Increase community cohesion and reduce fear of the 'other'
- Help to build resilience and give communities confidence to come together for common cause and to reduce fragmentation
- Celebrate being a part of a community
- Engender local pride

2.3 The Great Get Together grant scheme was widely publicised through a range of local networks, Ward Officers, the Voluntary Sector and the Stronger Communities Team. There were 2 rounds (May 2015 & July 2017). Round 1 was to primarily cover events to support the national Jo Cox Memorial weekend and also to include the end of Ramadan. Round 2 was to support activities taking place throughout the summer holiday period to the end of September. The scheme funded a diverse range of events and activities across the district including the Big Picnic and the Big Iftar events. There were 94 successful applications (**Appendix A**) of which 23 came from within the Bradford West area constituency (**Appendix B**).

2.4 The distribution of funds was decided by a Panel made up of officers from the Stronger Communities Coordinator, a Ward officer from each of the constituencies, the Programme Lead and the Programme Support Officer.

2.5 All Panel members had experience of being involved in grant decision making primarily through their local Grants Advisory Groups (GAPs) and the Bradford District Community Fund. They were able to consider the applications and make recommendations about all the applications for consideration and to determine that the criteria was met which included the following:

- A clear description of the activity
- A named referee for groups not formally constituted (a person of responsibility in the community)
- Who is to be involved
- How will the event be promoted and encourage others to take part
- A break down of the full project costs and how any shortfall would be met
- Date & location

2.6 Where there were applications for events across more than one constituency area the cost was shared between the areas. In addition three District Wide applications were funded centrally and all took place within the constituency making a total of 26 events for Bradford West area. (**Appendix B**)

- 2.7 To date feedback received from event organisers has been very positive and has been particularly welcomed from small groups who were applying for the first time. They have enjoyed the experience as they have been able to reach out to others in their neighbourhood and made new friends.
- 2.8 The Great Get Together grant offer has been successful as it has enabled additional activities and opportunities for local engagement within the Bradford West constituency as well as the wider district. The events and activities have been attended by thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds, many of whom were not usually involved in existing local provision.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Bradford Great Get Together programme is just one of many practical responses implemented to help support and improve local community cohesion and community relations the need for which have been highlighted by the following:
- The Casey Review recently highlighted the lack of integration and cohesion in Bradford as well as other places.
 - There has been an increase of hate crime since the EU Referendum and an increase in fear and worry regarding migration and immigration.
 - The cost and impact of disconnected communities is increased crime, isolation poor health and deprivation.

Community based programmes like TGGT can provide an opportunity to help communities to build relationships and resilience.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Financial

£22,507.94 was spent out of the £25,000 received from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The unspent amount of £2,492.04 is to be returned to the CSP to support other local Safer Communities priorities.

Staffing

Support for the development and implementation of programme has been provided from within the existing resources of the Neighbourhoods and Customers Services.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no significant risks arising

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 This work relates to the delivery of the statutory requirement for a Community Safety Partnership as set out under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and subsequent legislative amendments. These include the development and delivery of a Partnership Plan which

contains community safety priorities based on the current evidence base across the communities of Bradford District.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 7.1.1 The funded events and activities promote engagement and inclusion as well as supporting the Bradford West Area Committees commitment to equal opportunities for all.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 None

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- 7.3.1 None

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 Community safety issues are acknowledged as a key contributor to the quality of life in neighbourhoods. It is anticipated that the activities generated through this funding will make a positive contribution towards community relations within the areas of benefit.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

- 7.5.1 None

7.6 TRADE UNION

- 7.6.1 There are no implications

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 7.7.1 The areas covered by the recommendations of the Great Get Together Grant Panel includes wards within the Bradford West constituency. For range of events see appendix B

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.8.1 Future Big Lunch/Great Get Together activities and events could be considered for incorporation into future Bradford West Area Ward Plans as a means to support Bradford West area's stronger community priorities.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 None

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Bradford West Area Committee acknowledges the positive work undertaken to support

local community action through the implementation of the The Big Lunch Great Get Together Grants programme.

11. APPENDICES

- **Appendix A:** The Summary of The Great Get Together Grants - All
- **Appendix B:** The summary of the Great Get Together Grants -Bradford West

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Big Lunch Press Release 2017