City of BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Shipley Area Committee to be held on 28th November 2018.

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Subject:

The allocation of the Community Building Grants (extended community centre core costs).

Summary statement:

This reports sets out the Community Building Grants allocation process. Community Building Grants are for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to support them in meeting their associated building related costs.

Steve Hartley Strategic Director Place

Portfolio:

Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 This reports sets out the Community Building Grants allocation process. Community Building Grants are for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to support them in meeting their associated building costs.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the budget decision on the 25th February 2016, Bradford Council approved plans to remove or reduce:

a) Rent subsidies provided to VCS organisations
b) Community development grants
c) Discretionary business rate relief to not for profit organisations

2.2 The Review group concluded that the best way forward was to combine all remaining resources from Neighbourhood and Customer Services and Regeneration and establish a single process, based on an extended core costs model used with the VCS groups for 2015-17. The proposal merged the remaining support available into one Community Building Grant and to devolve the decision making to Area Committees in order to increase fairness, transparency and accountability.

Financial Allocation

2.3 The apportionment of the remaining budget was based upon a formula that factors in current support levels and also the needs based formula that was used and agreed by Executive to allocate the previous Voluntary and Community sector funding round.

2.4 The VCS Buildings Review Group, chaired by the Strategic Director of Place used this formula to recommend the allocation of funding levels to each Area. The group's recommendation was agreed by the Regeneration, Planning, and Transport Portfolio Holder on behalf of Council Executive.

2.5 The available budget across the District, for 2019-20 is £250k (2020-21 subject to equivalent budget being available). The new grants will commence from 1 April 2019.

2.6 A ring-fenced allocation will be made available to support organisations supporting District Wide activity and community of interest groups.

2.7 Table 1 includes the current levels of support each area received and the allocated amounts for each Area Committee for 2019-2021 for the Community Building Grants.

Table One

	Amount per annum 2017-19	Percentage calculation from 2018-19 grants	**Amount per annum 2019-21**
East	£99,400	22.80 %	£57,000
South	£50,700	11.63 %	£29,075
West	£122,800	28.16 %	£70,400
Keighley	£64,400	14.77 %	£36,925
Shipley	£52,700	12.09 %	**£30,225**
District wide provision	£46,000	10.55 %	£26,375
Total	£436,000	100%	£250,000

2.8 It will be the responsibility of each Area Committee to make decisions on the allocation recommendations of the 2019-20 budget (and 2020-21 subject to equivalent budget being available) of the Area Grants Advisory Groups.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Importance of Community Buildings

3.1 Helping to ensure that communities are safe, clean and active is a Council priority. Whilst we can no longer fund community development workers we can facilitate this approach by supporting community buildings to stay open and become hubs of local activity and community led development. The 'People Can' approach to community support will contribute to building stronger sustainable communities in the following ways:

- Increase the active participation of residents in their neighbourhoods and communities
- Meeting space for community groups
- Local base to deliver a range of services including advice work
- Places to deliver activities and access to practical resources

Framework to be deployed by Area Committees in the allocation of grants

3.2 The Area Committees will use their existing Grants Advisory Group in the same way they have for Community Chest. The Grants Advisory Group will assess applications and make recommendations to Area Committee for determination.

3.3 Officers from Revenues and Benefits, Estates Management and Finance will be requested to provide relevant facts and information on the applicant groups for the Grants Advisory Group to ensure relevant information can be reviewed prior to funding recommendations being submitted.

3.4 Information can be provided to Members, via the Area Coordinator, about the bidding process and which groups had been informed so that Members may flag up any groups they considered would benefit from the process that are not listed.

3.5 Grants will be available for up to two years.

3.6 The Area Committee may choose to develop a scoring system for allocation of funds with the support of the Neighbourhood Service central team

3.7 The main priority of these grants is for organisations with low levels of resources and without the funds to pay the full cost of running the centre without support.

3.8 Community buildings receiving a contribution to their building related costs through a grant will be expected to be well run facility in the following respects:

- To be accessible to everyone within the local community
- Well maintained and clean facilities
- Have a responsible charging policy
- Have financial systems and controls in place
- Have a strong and responsible management committee
- To work in partnership with other agencies

3.9 The Neighbourhood Service Central team will support the Grants Advisory Group to enable a consistency of approach across the five Areas and will also include distributing the expressions of interest (application) packs to current recipients, and to the Area Coordinator's Offices for further distribution to new or currently unfunded relevant Community buildings.

3.10 Whilst administration of the grants will be undertaken centrally within the Neighbourhoods and Customer Service, the Ward Officers will be the main contact to monitor progress and they will ensure that issues raised are being addressed.

3.11 The Area Office staff, revenues and benefits, asset management, the Central team and the voluntary sector infrastructure organisations will work with applicants to consider alternative sources of support such as sharing of spaces, community asset transfer, small business rates relief or registering as a community amateur sports club.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 The approved reduction identified in the Council budget 2019-2021 is presented in this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 There is a risk that some of the organisations currently receiving support will not be successful in the Community Buildings fund due to significantly reduced resources. However there are various avenues organisations could pursue which may help reduce the negative impact. These include, becoming a registered charity which will entitle organisations to 80% rate relief, or to register as a small business and rates will be off set by government initiatives. There is also additional support available to sports clubs who register as a Community Amateur Sports Club with HMRC, which would also, reduces the rates charges by 80%.

5.2 In addition Ward Officers and Voluntary Organisations Support Officers (VOSOs) will continue to provide support to areas and organisations.

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 Shipley 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 Shipley Area Committee, described in this report, and used to support the Shipley Area Committee Action Plan 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 contributes to the outcomes of the ward plans by supporting organisations to provide key local services which currently receive

buildings related support in Shipley.

The creation and devolution of the Community Building Grant to Area Committees will establish a more tailored provision and more accountability at a ward level.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.8.1 The activities outlined in this report contribute to priorities within the Shipley Area Committee's Action Plan.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 Shipley Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.

9.2 Shipley Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.

9.3 Shipley Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the proposed allocation process for Community Building Grants be noted.

10.2 That the Shipley Area Coordinator 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 Shipley Area.

10.3 That the Shipley Area Coordinator be requested to bring a further report to a meeting within the 2018-19 municipal year, with recommendations from the Grant Advisory Group on how to allocate the Community Building Grants funds available.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A Community Buildings Grant (CBG) Process Flow chart for 2019-2021

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 Report to Shipley Area Committee on the allocation of Community Building Grants 2017-19. 24th November 2016

APPENDIX A

Mahmood Mohammed	Process	Annette Wray	GAG and Area Committee

Community Buildings Grant (CBG) Process Flow chart for 2019-2021

Community Building Grants (CBG) Consultations and query resolution with Members and Neighbourhood SMT by **Wednesday 31st October**

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Report written and submitted for Area Committees by **9th November**

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Report goes to all Area Committees - **November**
East and South 22nd; West and Shipley 28th; Keighley 29th

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Request assistance/input from Finance, Business Rates & Estates Management

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Community Building Grant (CBG)
Expressions of Interest, Guidance + Impact Assessment, Sent by email (where possible) to known Groups / Members / Area Offices / VOSOs
Plus CAB&D and CNET to publicise – **Early December (10th at the latest)**

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Deadline for return of Expressions of Interest & Docs by **Thursday 3rd January**

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Programme Support Officer to log, scan, collate & disseminate all Expressions of Interest and documents to Area Offices, Finance, Bus. Rates & Estates Mgt.
As soon after Thursday 3rd Jan as possible in readiness for GAG meeting/s

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Grant Advisory Groups (GAGs) to review Expressions of Interest / Docs and make recommendations to their Area Committees (ACs) plus Area Chairs for the District Wide Bids. **Early in January 2019**
Including where necessary 2nd GAG for further investigation / information.

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GAG recommendations reported to Area Committees
– (where possible allowing **10 days before** for reporting deadlines)
ACs - Shipley 16th Jan; East 7th Feb; West 27th Feb; South 28th Feb; Keighley 28th Feb

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Final Area Committee at which the results could be approved
ACs - Keighley 28th Feb; Shipley 6th Mar;
East 21st Mar; West 27th Mar; South 29th Mar

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Area Committee Decisions on Community Building Grants
will be fed back to all by **31st March 2019**