

Report of the Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods and Customer Services to the meeting of Regulatory and Appeals Committee to be held on 27 October 2022

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Subject:

THE 1887 ALFRED SHARP BINGLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

Summary statement:

This report provides information on processes for providing grant funds to institutions and groups in Bingley.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Grant funding is designed to be inclusive and benefit all local service delivery across the District. Whilst this is right and consistent with the principle of equalities at the heart of everything we do; it is also the case that our investment needs to demonstrate how it is enabling us to make sustainable progress in equality, diversity and inclusion and culture.

All grant funded, contracted partners and projects recognise the single statutory duty to promote equality under the Equality Act 2010. All our partners ensure and demonstrate that services delivered have due regard to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010
- Reduce inequalities in educational attainment
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Regeneration and Economy

1. SUMMARY

The 1887 Alfred Sharp Bingley Educational Trust are exploring grant giving mechanisms for distributing £220,000 of funds to local community organisations and educational institutions in Bingley.

This report provides information on some of the ways that community grants are distributed by Bradford Council's Neighbourhoods and Customer Services.

2. BACKGROUND

The 1887 Alfred Sharp Bingley Educational Trust constitution states the charity's objective is "to advance the education of children and adults in the former Bingley Improvement District in such ways as the charity trustees think fit, including by awarding financial grants to individuals and/or schools and other educational organisations in the area." There is currently approximately £220,000 held by the Trust.

The fund is a one off sum of money that will expire when the grants are awarded. The Trust will need to consider the communication of the initiative, application process, amount of grant to be given as a maximum and minimum, guidance for applicants on the criteria for the funds, timescales for the funding to be used, and monitoring and evaluation criteria

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Commissioning of projects and small grants,

Council funded grants to the community groups provide a vital lifeline to the sector and services provided locally to neighbourhoods, they include - VCSE Service Improvement Programme, Transformation Fund to support charitable organisations that require small amounts of grant to ensure survival from an external professional input for items such as business plans, marketing plans etc. Community Building Grant is administered and delivered by the Stronger Communities Team but devolved to Area committees for decision making. Smaller scale initiatives to leverage community activity have included the Innovation Fund from our Integration and Cohesion programme which offered between £5,000 to £15,000 to respond to emerging needs and tensions, scale-up smaller projects and test new ideas. A list of these projects can be found on the following link on <https://bradfordforeveryone.co.uk/get-involved>.

Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund had three rounds. This fund offered opportunity to respond to emerging needs and tensions, scale up smaller projects and test new ideas.

The first round of Innovation Fund was launched on the 28 May. Individual awards up to £5,000 were offered through the Participatory Budgeting method. This is where other applicants get to vote on who should be successful and where to spend the budget. The total amount available for the first round was £50,000. The event had over 45 participants of which we asked how effective they found the process as a way to allocate community funding. The majority of those who attended felt that the process was 'democratic and transparent'. 13 projects were funded using this process. Please see the link below for a list of the projects or visit <https://bdp.bradford.gov.uk/about-us/stronger-communities-partnership/>

Community Building Grant

This grant is allocated through the Area Committees and supports local community organisations with running costs of their buildings. An application process ensures that all the key information including the financial details of the organisation are checked along with current running costs. Ward Officers and ward Councillors are able to input the process of their knowledge of the area and the value of the services provided to the neighbourhood. Awards are made by the Area Committee based on conversation with local councillors and are based staff.

Transformation Fund

This grant again has a similar purpose to the community Building grant that its objective to support community organisations become more sustainable. The method employed to award this grant is by use of a panel made of anchor VCS organisations and the Stronger Communities Head of Service scoring applications that are invite from groups on a quarterly basis. The input of the larger VCS organisations is invaluable as their knowledge and experience come to good use as we not only provide a grant but also linkages to other suitable programmes and frees services that may assist the applicant. The Transformation Fund does not provide actual cash but a value of £400 per day that can be paid to professional advisors or consultants to provide feasibility studies, business plans or marketing strategies etc. This grant is administered for a fee by Participate Projects that undertake background checks and provide a simplified application with key information to the panel.

Participatory Budgeting

The participatory Budget way of providing grants to community organisations has been trialled by the Stronger Communities Team on two occasions and is a good way of involving individuals or groups of applicants to make decisions themselves on the award of grants. Those meeting the essential criteria are asked to attend an event where each applicant has a set to time to make a pitch for their project which is then scored by all the applicants invited. The funding is then awarded to those with the highest score until all the funds have been allocated, another factor which can be applied to ask the awarded organisations to put 10% back into the pool if they are happy to do so which can then fund the next one or two on the scoring list.

Community Chest

This award is given out to community organisations on a quarterly basis through a simplified form from the constituency based Area Committees. Please see attached Application form and criteria sheet attached as Appendices A and B. This method of grant giving is easily adapted and has been used for giving out grants for Big Lunches and this year's Queens Jubilee Fund. It is administered from the Area Coordinators Office and approved by a grants advisory panel made up of ward councillors.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

There are no financial issues arising from the awarding of these Trust fund.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There is no significant risk arising out of the awarding of this fund to local organisations.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no legal issues arising from the awarding of the Trust fund who are being advised by the City Solicitor.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications for the award of the Trust fund.

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no further issues for sustainability from awarding of this Trust fund. The grant awarding process will require that any activity undertaken by the award of grant will meet sustainability objectives.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no further no impacts on green house and gas emissions

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no further community safety implications from the award of the Trust fund.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no further implications for the Human Rights Act with the award of the Trust fund.

7.5 TRADE UNION

- There are no further implications for Trade Unions

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- This fund is targeted and Bingley ward and will benefit organisations and educational institutions in this area.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The award of the Trust funds will directly benefit projects and initiatives for learning aimed at children and young people.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

There are no implications arising from privacy impact assessment. The method employed to distribute the Trust funds will pay due regard to GDPR.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

The background information provided in the report gives a range of options that may be used for grant giving. These methods used by teams in Neighbourhoods and Customer Services, Department of Place.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Community Chest model has been widely used for grant giving to local community groups and is a tried and tested mechanism that provides local accountability. It also reduces the bureaucracy in administering local funds.

The Transformation Fund method of distributing funds allows the panel to be unique to the funding criteria and specialist knowledge required to award grants. This method has been used to fund grants for different objectives and with funds from different council departments. It is easily adapted and flexible in its operation.

The Community Chest process is recommended due to its versatility and operation with Area Offices. The Shipley Area Coordinators Office will provide a strong connection with ward councillors and the knowledge of community organisations by ward based staff.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A

Community Chest Application Form, an example of a grant giving from

Appendix B

Guidance for filling in a Community Chest Application

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The 1887 Alfred Sharp Bingley Educational Trust Constitution