

Report of the Bradford South Area Co-ordinator to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 15th February 2024

AA

Subject:

Request for reallocation of Combined Funding 2023-2024 Bradford South.

Summary statement:

This report requests members to consider the reallocation of Combined Funds returned from a Bradford South organisation from the amalgamation of funding from United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living fund (CoLF) and Household Support Fund (HSF) for Round 2.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Decisions will need to be made in line with Equal Rights legislation. This will require Area Committees to assess the potential equality impact of any decisions they make. The District Plan and Locality Plans are underpinned by a cross cutting principle of tackling inequality in our communities. These combined funds will set out a program of activity that supports this as a core outcome. As a Council, we have committed to keeping equalities at the heart of what we do - 'This means everyone can access services regardless of their background, that we embrace our different communities across the whole district and that we build an inclusive organisation.' In collaboration with partners, we will support this approach, address inequality and improve opportunities for communities across Bradford South.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report requests members to consider the reallocation of Combined Funds returned from a Bradford South organisation from the amalgamation of funding from United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living fund (CoLF) and Household Support Fund (HSF) for Round 2.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC) via its Constituency Area Offices invited applications from eligible local organisations to apply for funding available from The West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Fund (WYCA CoLF) £287,000, Household Support Fund (HSF) £172,000 and United Kingdom Share Prosperity Fund, UKSPF £135,000. These are actual sums for community grants once £120,000 has been transferred from the Cost of Living Fund to Bradford Credit Union for affordable loans and support for school uniforms.

- 2.2 The UKSPF Programme replaces the European Structural and Investment Fund following Brexit. The UK government released the UKSPF prospectus in April 2022 as part of its central mission to level up the whole of the United Kingdom. The allocation for West Yorkshire is £80,486,557 over a 3-year period, with £7,578 million allocated for the Bradford District. It is a three-pillar framework for allocating this funding:

Pillar 1 - Communities and Place

Pillar 2 - Supporting Local Business

Pillar 3 - People and Skills

- 2.3 Applications from eligible local organisations across the Bradford South constituency were invited to apply from the total funding of £130,840.00. The funds from CoLF, HSF and UKPSF were combined to provide emergency local services and support during the cost-of-living crisis, specifically for food banks/parcels, warm places debt advice and support for mental health.

Examples of support can be (not an exhaustive list):

- Food (or other such as hygiene, clothes) parcels
- Establishing new or extending existing warm places
- Support and advice
- Measures to improve energy efficiency for households
- Tangible items for vulnerable groups (slow cookers, hot water bottles, flasks, blankets)

- 2.4 All grants will be distributed via the Area Co-ordinator's Neighbourhood Teams who cover the 5 Parliamentary Constituencies in the district, which are Bradford South, Bradford East, Bradford West, Shipley and Keighley.

- 2.5 The a single application process and criteria was developed and adopted district wide for the combined funding. The funding went live in September 2023 with a closing date for receipt of applications of 30 September 2023.

- 2.6 At its meeting in October 2023, the Area Committee allocated £60,170 from the initial funding that was available and the amount of £3,580 was returned by an organisation previously funded from the UKSPF funding. The table below provides further details:-

Bradford South Allocation	£130,840.00
Returned unspent UKSPF funding	£ 3,580.00
Total available	£134,420.00
Amount allocated at October 2023	£ 60,170.00
Total amount available for Round 2	£ 74,250.00

- 2.7 At its meeting in November 2023, the Area Committee allocated the remaining funds of £74,250.00. However, an organisation in Bradford South has returned an amount of £3,900 and a request is being submitted for this funding to be used towards purchasing electrical blankets and other resources for eligible individuals and families.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 If any funding is left unallocated which arises to seek support from the Area Committee to use funds as detailed within 2.7.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Each area was offered a baseline budget of £50,000 and the remaining balance of £344,000 was shared by applying the deprivation index formula. See section 2.6 of this report for more information on the financial context. Management of the administration sits centrally within the Stronger Team.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no risk management or governance issues.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 There are no legal appraisal issues to highlight.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The District Plan and Locality Plan is underpinned by sustainability goals. As the priorities have been set using the District Plan, the outcomes achieved from this funding help us achieve our district goals on sustainability.

7.2 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

The work planned on greening areas of Bradford, working with community

groups on decarbonisation and supporting households with the costs of living crisis all support their agenda.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

7.5 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications arising from this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

This is detailed within the main body of the report and is key to the successful delivery of the grants allocated, to improve quality of life for residents across the Bradford South constituency, to support the Bradford South Ward Plans.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE LOCALITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

As above in 7.6 and to support the delivery of priorities in the Bradford South Constituency Locality Plan.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The District, Locality and Ward plans contain specific outcomes that relate to children and young people. Grants allocated from these funding pots will bring direct and indirect benefit to them, addressing local priorities of need and deprivation.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no issues arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

There are no not for publication items.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 To agree the proposals for the reallocation of the Combined Fund as detailed within section 2.7 and section 3.1 of this report.

9.2 To amend the proposals for the allocation of funding.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Area Committee agree the proposals for the funding allocations as outlined. Within section 2.7 and 3.1 of this report.

11. APPENDICES

None

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Reports to Bradford South Area Committee October 2023, November 2023 and December 2023.