

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET 15 JUNE 2021
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

GRANT AWARD FROM CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND

- 1.1 An opportunity arose to be part of a joint bid to Hertfordshire's Health Protection Board, for money from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to enhance the council's Community Grants programme and help support capacity within local charitable and voluntary organisations in connection with covid19 infection control and recovery.
- 1.2 The joint bid was considered at the Health Protection Board on the 25 May 2021 and as a result the council has been awarded £100,000 to distribute as grant support to local charitable and voluntary organisations, who meet the criteria of the COMF scheme.
- 1.3 The money will be made available to the council from 1 June 2021 and needs to be issued by 31 December 2021.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the money will be made available through the community grant programme, overseen by the Grants Board.
- 1.5 Any monies that are not spent will be returned to Hertfordshire County Council.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the content of this report and agree that that the grants should be made available through the community grant programme and overseen by the Grants Board.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 Hertfordshire Health Protection Board is a multi-agency group which was required to be set up in response to the Covid19 pandemic. One of its functions is to oversee the distribution of funds from the COMF. Funding has been allocated to Hertfordshire County Council and to each district council. The Health Protection Board determines allocation of spend from the appropriate source – Hertfordshire wide, or district specific; this is based on need and risk.
- 3.2 This report updates members on a recent successful bid that was made to the Health Protection Board for additional money to support local charitable and voluntary sector organisations, who may be facing challenges due to the impact of covid and whose work meets the criteria of the COMF.
- 3.3 The bid was led by Dacorum Borough Council but made on behalf of the other Hertfordshire district councils, including Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (Welwyn Hatfield). The money allocated via the successful bid is coming from the funds held specifically by Hertfordshire County Council for Hertfordshire wide use, rather than the funds that are separately ring fenced for Welwyn Hatfield.
- 3.4 Welwyn Hatfield has been allocated £100,000 as part of the joint bid, to boost the existing community grants programme, with an emphasis that applications for grants from this money will need to demonstrate that they meet the relevant criteria.

- 3.5 It is proposed that the money will be distributed as community grants via the council's Grants Board. The application process and assessment will be the same as for any other community grant. However, successful applications for this funding will have demonstrated how they meet the criteria for the COMF. The criteria will be included in the information provided to organisations who wish to bid and published as part of our communications.
- 3.6 To ensure that the fund is available widely, the maximum amount that will be supported through this fund will be £10,000 per organisation.
- 3.7 The full criteria are set out at Appendix A, however the key elements that are relevant to this successful application are:
- Delivery of essentials for those in self isolation
 - Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
 - Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g., voluntary, academic, commercial)
 - Community based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population.
 - Providing initial support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who are following guidance.
 - Support for rough sleepers
- 3.8 The funds must be spent by the end of December 2021.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report other than to comply with any relevant terms from Government to accept the funding.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 The council has been awarded £100,000 to support a community grants programme. This is in addition to the current budget for community grants.
- 5.2 The budget will be amended to create the relevant grant income and expenditure budgets in line with section 4.3.4 of the financial regulations.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 The risks related to this proposal are:
- 6.2 Reputational Risk – not having sufficient demand for the fund, thereby having funds unspent and a potential reputational risk of not making best use of the opportunity. Controls broadly advertising the funds, particularly with stakeholder groups such as the Community Inclusion Partnership; being flexible about the amount that organisations can bid for; having a simple and transparent application process. **Likelihood Low; Impact Medium. Overall Risk Low.**

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 The council ensures that information is provided by any organisation that applies for funds, to ensure that they are a reputable organisation and that there is a clear purpose for the funds awarded.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications. The funds will be issued as grant payments.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 10.1 The fund will be administered as part of the council's community grants process. The community partnership support officer will administer the process alongside her other work responsibilities.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 11.1 The fund is likely to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, as it will support voluntary and charitable organisations to prevent covid outbreaks and to support vulnerable residents.

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 12.1 The availability of the fund will be widely advertised together with the relevant criteria and outcome of grants agreed by the Grants Board. This will include providing information about the available funding on the Healthy Hub website.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority Sense of Community and Safety.

14 Equality and Diversity

- 14.1 An EqIA has been completed in relation to the community grants programme and application process and there are no adverse implications for any group with protected characteristics.

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Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

Appendix 1: Contain Management Fund Criteria

1. Main testing and tracing programme in the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19
2. Targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes.
3. Additional contact tracing
4. Enhanced communication and marketing
5. Delivery of essentials for those in self-isolation
6. Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
7. Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g., voluntary, academic, commercial)
8. Extension/introduction of specialist support (e.g., behavioural science & comms)
9. Additional resource for compliance, enforcement, restrictions, and guidance
10. Targeted support for school/university outbreaks
11. Community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population
12. Engagement and analysis of regional areas to assess and learn from local initiatives
13. Providing initial support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who are following guidance
14. Support for rough sleepers
15. Other related “Contain” activities (specified in the Contain Framework)