

Part I

Main author: Bianca Moreira

Executive Member: Cllr Fiona Thomson

All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
GRANTS BOARD – 28 SEPTEMBER 2021
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

GRANT AWARD FROM CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND

1 Executive Summary

- 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 council was successful in a joint bid considered at the Health Protection Board on 25 May 2021. 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 Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) scheme.
- 1.3 Cabinet agreed that that the grants should be made available through the community grant programme and overseen by the Grants Board.
- 1.4 The money is now available to the council and will need to be issued by 31 December 2021.
- 1.5 This is the first round of funding for this Covid-19 Relief Community Grants. A second round of funding is now open and will close on 7 November 2021 prior to judgement on 13 December 2021.
- 1.6 In total £50,430 has been applied for in this round of funding for the Covid-19 Relief Community Grant Applications.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Grants Board to agree which applications for Covid-19 Relief Community Grants meet the criteria for the COMF and how much they should each receive.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 Applications for this Covid-19 grants will need to demonstrate that they meet the criteria set out by the COMF as below. We expect this to include activities such as (this list is not exhaustive):

- Delivery of essentials for those in self isolation
- Involvement in main testing and tracing programme in the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.
- Target testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes.
- Additional contact tracing
- Enhance communication and marketing during the pandemic
- Targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
- Harnessing capacity within local sectors (e.g., voluntary, academic, commercial)
- Deploying additional resource for compliance, enforcement, restrictions, and guidance
- 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.

3.2 There are six applications totalling £50,430 for Covid-19 Relief community grants to be reviewed:

COVID-19 Grant- Organisations	Amount seeking
Cruse Bereavement Care Hertfordshire	£5,000
Druglink	£10,000
Home Start Herts	£5,430
Isabel Hospice	£10,000
Resolve (Community Café)	£10,000
WGC Rugby	£10,000
	Total: £50,430

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications connected with this report. The Council will have to abide by the requirements of any funding agreement for this sum

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 In total £50,430 has been applied for in this round of Covid-19 Relief community grant funding from six applications.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The council has advertised the funds widely and promoted a simple and flexible application process. £50,430 have been applied for in this round.
- 6.3 Risk Score Likelihood Low; Impact Low to Medium. Overall risk score Low.

7 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 In complying with the Prevent duty Local Authorities need to ensure that publicly owned resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.

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.

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 10.1 There are none arising from this report.

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 has been widely advertised together with the relevant criteria.
- 12.2 The Council will put out a press release detailing the successful applicants and will promote the second and final round later this year.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 13.1 The subject of this report is linked to several of the council's recently adopted priorities especially around a sense of community where people feel safe.

14 Equality and Diversity

- 14.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

Name of author	Bianca Moreira
Title	Community Partnerships Manager
Date	7 September 2021