

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
2 December 2014

Subject: "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" GRANTS FUND

All Ward(s)
Leader: Councillor M S Robson

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 An opportunity has arisen to re-invest windfall savings back into the community and the Cabinet is asked to approve a new one-off community grants scheme.

2.0 BACKGROUND:

2.1 In 2013/14 the Council achieved an underspend against budget of £510,599. This saving was placed in the Council's One-Off Fund to be invested in future priorities. The proposed "Make a Difference" Grants Fund will be funded from this underspend. This Fund will invest in worthy local community projects which help improve life in neighbourhoods, and which support the work of the voluntary sector.

2.2 The attachment at Annex A sets out the scope of the scheme which has been entitled "The Make a Difference Fund".

2.3 In summary, this is a fund which will see elected members in 5 market towns (and their hinterlands) receive community applications and prioritise them against a £25,000 budget allocation (£125,000 across all five areas).

2.4 The five sets of local proposals will then be considered by Cabinet which will award the grants.

2.5 An approximate timescale is set out against the process plan, also detailed in Annex A.

3.0 LINKS TO COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES:

3.1 The funding will link to all the Council's priorities.

4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

5.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES

5.1 This grant's scheme will seek to reduce inequalities in the community.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There will be a one-off cost of £125,000 funded from the One-Off Fund.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the new grants scheme and applies the criteria and timetable set out in Annex A.

7.2 The scheme be funded by an allocation of £125,000 from the One-Off Fund.

DAVID GOODWIN

Background papers:

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021214 Make a Difference Grants Fund

“MAKE A DIFFERENCE” GRANT FUND – SUGGESTED SCOPE

Criteria

The scheme would require projects to meet a criterion. A suggestion is to use the Council priorities so that projects would need to meet at least one of the following:

- Supporting economic growth
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Improving access to services
- Supporting a changing population

The grant must not replace statutory funding that has been withdrawn.

The applicant must be from a not-for-profit organisation that is constituted with a bank account.

The grant can be awarded for capital or revenue and will provide up to 75% of the scheme costs.

The project must be delivered between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016.

Exclusions

The following groups would not be eligible for funding:

- Parish Councils
- Individuals
- Businesses
- Statutory organisations

Grant value

To keep administration to a minimum it is suggested that the minimum grant award would be £2,500.00 (this could be greater if there is an appetite for this from Members).

It is suggested that the upper limit would be the full £25,000.00 allocated for each sub-area – this would allow Members to award the full allocation to one project if this is appropriate or award up to 10 smaller grants.

Project summary form

The project summary form would ask for the following information:

- Name of organisation
- Lead contact and contact details
- Project name
- Project description – how has the need for the project been identified, what will the funding be used for, what difference will it make and how many people will benefit
- Start date for the project
- Project cost and match funding information

Selection criteria

Elected Members meet as a panel to assess applications using the following selection criteria:

- The project meets at least one of the Council priorities
- Is there clear evidence of need based on community involvement
- Will the project make a difference to people's lives
- Does the project represent value for money
- How many people will the project benefit

Grant giving process

See flowchart attached for details.

PROCESS

