

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
9 June 2016

Subject: "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" GRANTS FUND

**All Wards
Leader: Councillor M S Robson**

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Following the success of the Make a Difference Grants Fund in 2015-16 another opportunity has arisen to re-invest windfall revenue savings back into the community for 2016-17 using the same mechanism as follows:
- a) Elected members in the 5 sub-areas receive community applications that they have endorsed and prioritise these against a £25,000 budget allocation
 - b) Applications will be assessed against a set selection criteria (see Annex A)
- 1.2 This fund will invest in worthy local community projects which help improve life in neighbourhoods, and which support the work of the voluntary sector.
- 1.3 In summary, this is a fund which will see elected members from each sub-area considering community applications and making recommendations for investment against a £25,000 budget allocation (£125,000 across all five areas).
- 1.4 The five sets of local proposals will then be considered by Cabinet which will award the grants.
- 1.5 Cabinet is asked to approve a one-off community grants scheme.

2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

- 2.1 The fund will link to all the council priorities as every grant awarded will need to address at least one of the council priorities.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

- 3.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Overall budget is limited to £125,000 and it is proposed that this comes from the one off fund.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There is a legal responsibility upon the council to ensure this funding is only allocated to projects that can meet the terms and conditions of the grant to ensure it meets any legal obligations that are required.

6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

7.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):

7.1 That Cabinet approves the 16-17 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.

DAVE GOODWIN

Background papers:	None
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“MAKE A DIFFERENCE” GRANT FUND – SUGGESTED SCOPE**Criteria**

The scheme would require projects to meet a criterion and meet at least one of the Council priorities as follows:

- Driving economic vitality – looking for projects that will encourage young people to stay in the district or that support vibrant and active market towns
- Enhancing health and wellbeing – looking for projects that will increase participation in physical activity, tackles fuel poverty and/or supports an ageing population
- Caring for the environment – looking for projects that will increase recycling and/or improve the environmental footprint
- Providing a special place to live – looking for projects that support people to live independent lives, provides access to services and/or support those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness

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

The project must be delivered between 1 July 2016 and 31 March 2017.

Exclusions

The following groups would not be eligible for funding:

- Local Authorities and Parish Councils
- Individuals
- Businesses
- Statutory organisations

Grant value

To minimise administration the minimum grant award will be £2,500 and the maximum £25,000. This allows members from each sub-area to award the full allocation to one project if this is appropriate or award a maximum of 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 of 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

- There is clear evidence of need including community involvement
- The project will make a difference to people's lives
- The project represents value for money
- The number of people that will benefit