

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
4 July 2017

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 Grant's Fund in 2015/16 and 2016/17, whereby £125,000 was made available each year to assist community projects, another opportunity has arisen to re-invest windfall revenue savings back into the community for 2017/18.
- 1.2 It is therefore suggested that £25,000 of the proposed fund is allocated to the five community libraries in Bedale, Easingwold, Great Ayton, Stokesley and Thirsk and that the remaining £100,000 is allocated to finance the 2017/18 Making a Difference Grants Fund.
- 1.3 The Making a Difference grants will be awarded using the following mechanism:
 - a) Elected members clustered into the 5 geographical sub-areas will be allocated a £20,000 budget to award to grant applications from their area.
 - b) Grant applications will be assessed and prioritised against the criteria and timetable set out in Annex A.
 - c) Successful awards will invest in worthy local community projects which help improve quality of life in neighbourhoods and which support the work of the voluntary sector.
- 1.4 The five sub-area grant recommendations will then be considered by Cabinet for approval.

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 scheme will seek to help Hambleton District Council actively reduce inequalities within the community.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 7.1 That Cabinet approves an allocation of £125,000 from the One-Off Fund to be used as follows:
- i) £25,000 to award £5,000 to each of the community libraries highlighted in the report.
 - ii) £100,000 to fund a 2017/18 Making a Difference Grants scheme, applying the criteria and timetable set out in Annex A.

PAUL STAINES

Background papers: None
Author ref: PS

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“MAKE A DIFFERENCE” GRANT FUND CRITERIA AND TIMETABLE

Criteria

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

- The applicant is a not-for-profit organisation that is constituted with a bank account
- 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 against the number of beneficiaries
- The grant requested is for no more than 75% of the scheme costs (capital or revenue)
- That the grant can be spent by 31 August 2018

The Council priorities are as follows:

- **Priority 1:** Driving economic vitality.
- **Priority 2:** Enhancing health and wellbeing.
- **Priority 3:** Caring for the environment.
- **Priority 4:** Providing a special place to live.

Exclusions

The following groups are not eligible for funding:

- Individuals
- Businesses
- Statutory organisations

Grant value

The minimum grant award will be £2,500 and the maximum £20,000. This allows Members from each sub-area to award the full allocation to one project if this is appropriate, or award a number of smaller grants.

Timetable

17 July 2017	The grants scheme is approved and launched
30 September 2017	Deadline for applications
October 2017	Member panel meetings
7 November 2017	Cabinet approval of grants
31 August 2018	Deadline for project delivery