

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
6 February 2018

Subject: "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" GRANTS FUND

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

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Following the success of the Making a Difference Grants' programme over the last three years, whereby £125,000 was made available each year to assist community projects, it is proposed that £125,000 is allocated to finance the 2018/19 Making a Difference Grants programme.
- 1.2 The Making a Difference grants will be awarded using the following approach:
- a) Elected members clustered into the 5 geographical sub-area panels will be allocated a £25,000 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 and community sector.
- 1.3 The five sub-area panel recommendations will be considered by Cabinet for approval.

2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

- 2.1 The fund will potentially 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 unmanageable 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 that this funding is only allocated to projects that can meet the terms and conditions of the grant scheme and to ensure that the funds are used for the purpose approved.

6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 This grant scheme will seek to help Hambleton District Council actively reduce inequalities in Hambleton by funding community projects and initiatives that will make a difference to people's lives.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

7.1 That Cabinet approves an allocation of £125,000 from the One-Off Fund to be used to fund a 2018/19 Making a Difference Grants programme.

PAUL STAINES

Background papers: None

Author ref: PS

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“MAKING A DIFFERENCE” GRANT PROGRAMME CRITERIA AND TIMETABLE

Criteria

Elected Members meet as 5 geographical sub-area panels 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 with regard to 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 March 2019

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
(Not including Town/Parish Councils)

Grant value

The minimum grant award will be £1,000 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 number of smaller grants.

Timetable

February 2018	The grants scheme is approved and launched
29 March 2018	Deadline for applications
Week commencing 23 April 2018	Member panel meetings
5 June 2018	Cabinet approval of grants
31 March 2019	Deadline for project delivery