

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING: **Council**

MEETING DATE: **12th November 2020**

TITLE: **Community Contribution Fund - PDS report back on the findings and actions from discussion**

WARD: All

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM/

List of attachments to this report:

1. PDS report on findings and actions from the Corporate Panel meeting on the 28th September

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report sets out findings and recommendations from Policy Development & Scrutiny following the motion adopted by Council in July on a Community Contribution Fund (CCF) for Bath & North East Somerset.
- 1.2 It sets out the combined recommendations from the Corporate PDS discussions and the Special Group Leaders Meeting on the 28th October 2020.

2 THE COUNCIL IS ASKED TO;

- 2.1 Note the findings and recommendations made by the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on the overall approach to the Community Contribution Fund as detailed within Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agree that the details of the governance of the scheme be delegated to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Group Leaders.
- 2.3 Agree that the Community Contribution Panel be established for a trial period of 1 year, with a politically proportionate membership, comprising six Liberal Democrats, two Conservatives, one Independent and one Labour.
- 2.4 Request Cabinet to ensure that a Community Contribution Scheme is implemented for a trial period of one year within Bath & North East Somerset through the 2021/22 budget process within the framework set out in this report, as agreed in principle by Council on 23rd July 2020.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel considered this issue at their meeting on the 28th September. Their full considerations and recommendations are attached in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 As they have raised a number of pertinent considerations and recommendations which require specialist officer oversight, it is proposed that the details of the scheme should be delegated to the Director of Finance, in consultation with Group Leaders.
- 3.3 Agree that, if possible, the same criteria as set out for the Ward Councillor Community Empowerment Fund should be used to distribute any contributions.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Resource implications have been identified as part of the report's findings and will be determined as part of the ongoing development of this work.
- 5.2 Within the pilot year the scheme will be managed within existing resources.
- 5.3 This will be a voluntary contribution scheme which would operate outside of the Council Tax system and managed as a ring-fenced fund within the revenue budget.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 A particular risk has been identified relating to possible lack of take up compared to administration costs, challenges in allocating funding to projects, donors requesting funds in specific areas or specific projects.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be prepared as part of any ongoing proposals moving forward.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 There is the potential for additional funds raised to be used to deliver the council's core policy of tackling the climate and ecological emergency.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 N/A

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The Council Solicitor and Section 151 Officer have been consulted on the report.

Contact person	<i>Paul Myers on behalf of the Corporate Panel (Paul.Myers@bathnes.gov.uk) Supporting Officer Andy Rothery (Director of Finance and section 151 Officer)</i>
Background papers	<i>Presentation slides to the Corporate Panel at their meeting on the 28th September 2020. http://vm-civ-mgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=635&MIId=5554&Ver=4</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	