

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING:	10th January 2022
TITLE:	Community Contribution Fund 2021/22
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Community Contribution Fund was launched in March 2021 to enable residents to donate funds to support local causes. The fund has reached a sufficient level where grants can now be awarded. This report provides an update on progress.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the update on the Community Contribution Fund.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Following the Council's approval on the 23rd February 2021, the Community Contribution Fund was opened to residents to donate their own funds to support local causes.
- 3.2 Over 300 people have now donated to the fund, several individuals have donated more than once. A minimum amount of £5 was applied with no maximum limit. 73% of the donations received were valued between £5 - £50 with the largest donations being £1,000 and £2,000 respectively. The fund has accumulated £25,128.00 (as at 20/12/21).
- 3.3 During October, applications were opened to any charitable, voluntary or community organisations that supported residents within Bath and North East Somerset. Organisations were able to apply for funding between £500 and £2,000. The deadline for applications was the 30th November 2021.
- 3.4 29 applications have been received with a total funding request of £51,715. The projects vary from: supporting people's mental health; providing emergency medical supplies; investing in refurbishments of community facilities; mentoring; support for families; training; group therapy and youth provision.
- 3.5 The applications are now currently being assessed against the criteria and further information is being obtained.

3.6 The funding decisions will be made by an assessment panel. This has been arranged for the end of January and is made up of Elected Members. This has been agreed by Group Leaders and its representation is as follows; 3 Lib Dem, 1 Conservative, 1 Labour and 1 Independent.

3.7 Several questions from donors regarding the future of the scheme were received and will need to be considered as part of the review. The main issue raised related to individuals being able to claim gift aid / tax relief. This would only be available if the fund was managed by a charitable organisation.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Community Contribution Fund will ensure that all organisations receiving funding will give due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and alignment to the Council's corporates priorities.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The Council is the accountable body responsible for managing the Community Contribution Fund and uses its own resources to manage and distribute funds to local organisations.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 This is an information only report about the Community Contribution Fund, therefore does not include any decisions that have a direct impact on Climate Change.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation with the funds donors and the wider community will be obtained once the funds have been allocated in February 2022. This feedback will help inform future decisions regarding the scheme. An update on the schemes progress was presented to Group Leaders on the 14th September 2021 and donors received an update via email in October 2021.

Contact person	Andy Rothery, Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer) (01225 477103)
Background papers	None.
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	