

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

21 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF REGENERATION, INWARD INVESTMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.5 BIG SOCIETY POSITION STATEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

(Report prepared by Gill Burden)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update Cabinet on the Big Society funding allocated to date and to outline opportunities to improve access by the community and the governance of the fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In February 2014, the Leader stated the Big Society Fund was to become more accessible to community groups and for it to be more transparent, more flexible and for it to involve genuine cross-party working.
- To widen community access to the Fund there will be additional representation sought for the existing Portfolio Holder Working Party. These will include a representative from Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC), Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) and Tendring Education Trust (TET).
- The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation will Chair the Portfolio Working Party and will invite each political group leader to nominate a representative from their group to sit on the Working Party.
- The Big Society Fund currently requires projects to assist in delivering the Council's priorities to address education, aspiration and skills amongst young people or develop projects to enable more people to engage in sporting activities and physical activity. The current criteria will also require a project to be of substantial community benefit or provide a direct cost saving to the authority. This final requirement has proved difficult to meet and whilst any project able to demonstrate a cost saving would be welcomed, future applications will not be expected to meet it as a condition of funding.
- To date, the funding awarded has generated in excess of £1.26m of levered or in-kind funding creating a ratio of 4:1. For every £1 of Big Society funding awarded, the District has benefited by nearly an additional £4. Future projects will need to demonstrate they can achieve a similar return in order to be considered for approval.
- The Stage 1 application form will change to reflect the above and, taking account of feedback from previous applicants, will now allow for more flexibility on the number of words expected to describe the project outline and resources required to deliver it. A copy of the revised Stage 1 application is attached at Appendix A.
- Since April 2011, there have been 167 applications received resulting in grant funding

of £355,797 being awarded to deliver a wide range of projects that have generated in excess of £1.26m of match funding in the form of either other funding secured by the projects or volunteer time attached to deliver the projects.

- The current Portfolio Working Party has met seven times since January 2013 and considered 26 applications and awarded funding to four of these.
- There is a summary of all applications awarded funding since April 2011 at Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- a) That Cabinet approve an increase in the membership of the Portfolio Holder Working Party that will assess and determine future applications to include a representative from Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) and Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) and Tendring Education Trust (TET).
- b) That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation invites each political group leader to nominate a representative from their group to sit on the Working Party.
- c) That Cabinet agree applications no longer need to demonstrate a direct cost saving to the authority.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Big Society funding supports projects that deliver the Corporate Goal to “*Help Children and Adults Achieve their Full Potential*” (Corporate Goal 3). In addition projects that receive funding will be assisting to deliver the priority from the Corporate Plan 2010 - 2016 to “*Ensure people have the knowledge and skills to secure good employment*”.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The fund had a total allocation of £643,000 of which £287,203 remains unallocated.

The existing criteria appears to have had a negative impact on the number of applications received with just 19 being submitted in the current financial year resulting in four projects being awarded funding totalling £54,680.

Risk

There is a risk that funding allocated to any group or organisation is not spent appropriately or in accordance with the purpose for which it was given. Although controls are already in place to mitigate this risk through the processes in operation, the Portfolio Holder Working Party with cross council representation helps to bring enhanced scrutiny of the process providing increased transparency as to how funding is allocated.

LEGAL

There are no legal implications.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below:

By reducing worklessness it is anticipated that the number of young people and adults who engage in unlawful behaviour will be reduced.

The actions set out have taken into account equality and diversity issues.

The actions will cover all wards.

BACKGROUND

The Big Society Fund was launched in April 2011 with £500,000 and a further £143,000 was allocated in March 2012. There have been 168 applications received and of these 24 have been awarded a total of £355,797 between them. There remains an uncommitted amount of £287,203.

The criteria initially asked that projects deliver a significant community benefit and ideally provide a direct cost saving to the authority. Since January 2013 project applications were also expected to assist in delivering the Council's priorities to address education, aspiration and skills amongst young people or enable more people to engage in sporting activities and physical activity. It is now proposed that projects are no longer required to meet the financial saving criteria as this has rarely been met and has been a barrier in most cases.

During the first year of the fund 2011/12 the fund received 117 applications, and funded 13 projects during 2012/13 there were 31 received of which 8 were funded and to date in 2013/14 there have been 19 received of which 4 have been funded.

Projects are expected to have applied to and successfully received funding from the most appropriate funder initially before applying to the Big Society fund as gap funding, therefore being a minority funder in most cases where there are national funding bodies such as the Football Foundation and Sport England.

The fund has made awards to 25 projects since the launch with the smallest being £240 and the largest £52,000 and generated in excess of £1.2m of match funding. This has been either the balance of the project costs or the value of volunteer time given to deliver the project. The full list is attached at Appendix B.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Stage 1 application form

Appendix B: Summary of applications awarded funding

BIG SOCIETY – Stage 1: Tell us your idea:

BIG SOCIETY is all about helping people to take responsibility for shaping the communities and areas around them. Here at Tendring District Council we are very keen to work with all voluntary groups, organisations, schools, Town and Parish Councils and neighbourhoods who come up with their own ideas to help benefit the wider community. Projects will need to clearly demonstrate how their initiative will strengthen a community as well as help us deliver on our objectives of **Education, Skills** and increasing participation in **Sport**. Projects will also be expected to generate match or in-kind funding that achieves a return of at least the same as the award being requested if not substantially more.

What Next?

We want to hear your idea and would ask that you give us a brief initial outline. Following receipt and consideration of this we will let you know if you have been successful at this first stage and, if appropriate, ask you to develop a more detailed project plan as part of the second and final stage. We will then assess the project to see that it is in line with the Council's objectives, is affordable and very importantly sustainable following which you will be notified as to whether you have been successful. Projects that are seeking general running costs are unlikely to be successful due to a lack of sustainability.

Applicants should note the more detailed Project Plans will need to show how you have consulted with the wider community and that it meets a local need and that there is community support for the project. Successful projects that receive funding will be required to submit monitoring reports showing how they are delivering on agreed performance indicators.

For more details on the scheme and how it operates go to www.tendringdc.gov.uk You may also be interested in a similar scheme run by Essex County Council – www.essex.gov.uk visit for more information.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please give us your name and contact details, along with the group you represent, and indicate how you would like us to contact you. Please also confirm if you are a charity, constituted club or association, school, training provider town or parish council, private enterprise or other.

PROJECT *(ideally between 500 – 800 words)*

Give a brief outline of your suggested proposal under the following headings:

1. Project Outline
2. Community engagement
3. How the project delivers a significant community benefit
4. How the project helps meet our **Education, Skills** or **Sport** priorities

ANTICIPATED RESOURCES REQUIRED *(ideally between 300-500 words)*

What do you need to deliver your proposal? – Please outline the amount of funding you are seeking from this fund, and the total costs to deliver the project and where the balance is coming from and the funder/s you have applied to and if known the outcome.

On behalf of myself and the Organisation, I, the individual who submits this application, hereby certify that the information contained in the application is true, accurate and complete in all material respects, and

agree that any funding provided by the Council shall be repayable as a debt due on demand if the application is found to be misleading or false in any significant respect.

Please return to big society@tendringdc.gov.uk or by post to: Big Society, Tendring District Council, Regeneration, Council Offices, Thorpe Road, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9AJ

Big Society funding to date at February 2014

				BS Fund	Match	Match		
				£	in £	in kind		
No:	Date	Applicant	Project			to date	In kind activity	
12	05/04/2011	Little Clacton Village Hall	Refurbishment of hall	17,000	40,500	1,000	Volunteer time	
13	05/04/2011	Volunteer Centre	Helping Hands	7,000	8,000	50,000	Based on 1/2 value of volunteer time for whole year	
16	05/05/2011	Pier Ave Baptist Church	New provision/facilities	17,000	20,000	8,000	Volunteer time to staff new provision	
18	06/04/2011	Volunteer Centre	Volunteering	26,602		47,736	Based on 2010 - 2013 registrations of new volunteers	
27	18/04/2011	Thorington Parish Council	Litter Pickers	240		400	Volunteer time	
48	19/05/2011	TYA	Battle of Bands	5,101		1500	Sponsorship of event and volunteer time	
61	12/04/2011	Alresford Parish	Village Hall refurbishment	15,000	70,000	1,000	Volunteer time	
77	08/08/2011	Churches Together	Street Pastor Scheme	8,487	1,000	4,000	Volunteer time	
79	25/08/2011	Volunteer Centre	Helping Hands	16,012	8,000	50,000	Based on 1/2 the value of volunteer time for whole year	
90	24/10/2011	Colne Housing	Foundry Court Co-Ordinator	25,174	9,000	500	Volunteer time working with co-ordinator	
110	05/03/2012	Dancing Giraffe	Website development	2,000		1,000	Volunteer time	
109	05/03/2012	St Osyth Parish Council	Install Composting toilet	2,005	5,900	500	Volunteer time	
107	29/03/2012	Harwich Rock School	Rock Club	9,495	20,000		Artist participation and build cost support	
106	02/05/2012	Great Bromley Village Hall	Finish refurbishment	500		200	Volunteer time	
135	16/10/2012	Inclusion Ventures	Youth activities	20,000	154,000		Project delivery	
63	30/06/2011	CAB	Financial Capabilities	52,000	30,000	30,000	Volunteer time	
136	17/10/2012	Colchester Institute	Building project	32,000	500,000		Skills Funding Agency £100k and Institute £400k	
138	08/11/2012	Tendring Education Trust	Community Hopper	25,000	22,000	1000	Volunteet drivers trained	
117	27/03/2012	Gt Bentley Village Hall	Contribution to Cooker	500	2,100		Additional facilities at village hall to extend usage	
95	28/11/2011	St Andrews Church	Contribution to build costs	10,000	50,000		Proportion of other grants secured	
126	25/05/2012	Clacton Sports Trust	Vista Road development	10,000		5,000	Additional sports provison and volunteer time	
149	24/06/2013	The Great Estate	Community Centre	18,680	30,000	39,293	Funders p.a. and volunteer time both equated to 1 year	
147	08/03/2013	Chase Lane Primary	Changing facilities	30,000	30,000	25,280	Coaching support and balance of finishing costs	
155	24/06/2013	Clacton Canoe Club	New equipment	5,000		1,000	Coaching and additional qualifications being officed	
157	21/08/2013	Teen Talk	HIYA Music Festival	1,000				
Total				355,796	1,000,500	267,409		

167 applications received of which 25 funded to value of £355,796 with the smallest award £240 and the largest £52,000

For every £1 of Big Society money spent the District benefited by nearly an additional £4