



CABINET

17TH MAY 2018

AGENDA ITEM (8)

DISTRIBUTION OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUNDING

Accountable Member	Councillor Stephen Hirst Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure
Accountable Officer	Heather McCulloch Healthy Communities Manager 01285 623000 heather.mcculloch@westoxon.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To seek approval for a process modification which will allow the distribution of Youth Activities Funding received from Gloucestershire County Council to strategic projects.
Recommendation(s)	<p>(a) That Cabinet approves the process described in this report to enable funds to be allocated to strategic projects;</p> <p>(b) that, subject to endorsement of the process, the future determination of such strategic applications be delegated to the Leader of the Council;</p> <p>(c) that an update report be presented to the Cabinet at its November 2018 Meeting.</p>
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	<p>To enable the Council to distribute external funds given for specific purposes effectively and with greatest impact to the recipients. This does not affect the way Members can utilise individual allocations for 2017/18 and 2018/19.</p> <p>As at 1st April 2018 the level of unallocated Youth Activity funding stands at £77,672.97. The fund provider is Gloucestershire County Council and that Council will need to be reassured that this Council is in need of the funding and has an appropriate strategy for distribution.</p> <p>The pooling of funding for projects that cover a wider area (i.e. more than one or two wards) and for strategic purposes is in line with the funder's aspiration and would allow the Council to attract county-wide specialist youth development organisations to bring their expertise and skills to the area.</p> <p>The 'Social Mobility in Great Britain: Fifth State of the Nation Report' published in November 2017 identifies Cotswold as being one of the poorest performing areas in terms of youth aspiration at key transition points. These relate to young people as they move from general schooling to further study and as they move into school from early years. Targeted funding for young people can make a positive contribution to changing this position.</p>

Ward(s) Affected	All within the Cotswold District
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	The residual amount of allocation is available for distribution and comes from external funding. There is potential for the unallocated sum to be claimed back by the funder, Gloucestershire County Council.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	Funding could be withdrawn by the funder should this Council not agree an effective and timely strategy for distributing unallocated funding.
Equalities Analysis	No effect on protected groups identified

Related Decisions	At its Meeting on 7 th July 2011, the Cabinet approved the process by which the County Council funding would be allocated in the District and the Leader of the Council subsequently approved the application process. The same process has applied since that time. Funding awards are delegated to the Leader of the Council.
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix A - Criteria for Youth Activities Funding - Gloucestershire County Council

Performance Management Follow Up	Implement Cabinet decision(s)
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Options for Joint Working	There are no options for joint working between Councils as the County Council funding has been passed specifically to each district authority for allocation within its boundaries. However, organisations applying for the funding are encouraged, where appropriate, to work with others to ensure effective use of the money and to avoid possible duplication of provision in neighbouring areas.
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Background Information

1. Overview

1.1 As part of its approved Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/12, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) agreed to allocate £50,000 p.a. to each district authority to "achieve a programme of activities in each district that makes a positive difference to young people and mitigates the impact of reduced public sector provision of universal youth work".

1.2 At its Meeting on 7th July 2011, the Cabinet approved the process by which the GCC funding would be allocated in the District, and the Leader of the Council subsequently approved the application process. In short, the GCC funding was to be divided equally across CDC Members.

1.3 This arrangement has continued year-on-year and, following the District-wide elections in 2015, the Leader re-affirmed the approach, with each District Councillor receiving a £1,400 share of the Youth Activities Funding provided by GCC.

1.4 Members have often pooled a portion of their allocations to support larger, cross-Ward, projects. Such an approach has been taken in the larger towns, particularly Cirencester and Tetbury. There have also been other strategic pooled projects, such as a contribution towards supporting Gloucestershire Young Carers working in the Cotswolds, Active Impact working with disabled young people and their families, and World Jungle's Youth programme for 2017.

1.5 The total fund allocated by GCC annually has been £50,000. Responsibility is with each member to identify local recipients for funding and bring applications forward. In March 2018, the Council was notified by GCC that the funding would cease at the end of 2017/18. At its meeting on 20th February 2018, the Council agreed to provide additional funding to each Councillor of £1,000 towards youth activities in 2018/19.

2. Current Financial Position

As at 31st March 2018 there was an overall underspend of £77,672.97. This figure comprises underspends in Member allocations from the start of the scheme, and those in 2017/18 (in a sum of £21,332.04). As fund provider, GCC will need to be reassured that the funding is still needed and that the Council has an appropriate strategy for distribution. The Council is required to submit its annual summary of expenditure by 4th May. At this point, GCC will be aware of the current position.

3. Moving Forward

3.1 It is necessary at this stage to determine a strategy for distributing the unallocated funds and clarify the future management of the scheme. There are strengths in the existing arrangement, with Members playing a key role in identifying needs and sponsoring applications. It has, however, proven impossible to allocate all the funding every year. There is particular need now to refine the approach and allocate remaining funds effectively and in a timely way to avoid the risk of losing the investment. Furthermore, any future approach must work for the new funding scheme agreed by the Council for 2018/19. The broad principles of the approach are therefore recommended as follows:-

- Protect unspent Member allocations of £21,332.04 from 2017/18 for a further 6 months to allow this funding to be allocated in the usual way and alongside the new allocations in 2018/19. After 6 months, any remaining funds from the 2017/18 allocations will be added to the general fund - see below.
- Members to retain ability to pool funding from individual allocations for larger joint projects utilising both 2017/18 and 2018/19 allocations.
- Allow the unallocated remainder of £56,340.93 to be placed in a general fund for use for 'strategic pooled projects'.
- Determination of the allocation of these 'pooled strategic funds' to be delegated to the Leader of the Council and considered at a Leader Decision-Making meeting.
- 'Strategic pooled projects' to be identified and promoted by officers or from Members through officers where there is a need identified and appropriate solution proposed.

3.2 It is envisaged that strategic pooled projects will be brought forward by medium scale specialist organisations led by paid staff, either working county-wide or based in the Cotswolds. They will need to meet the GCC criteria but, in addition, priority will be given to projects which demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Reach multiple areas of the district.
- Are innovative in approach and deliver harder to access activities in an exciting way.
- Show impact on areas of deprivation where young people experience significant health inequalities and barriers to participation and low aspiration.
- Focus activity on specific groups of young people who traditionally are harder to reach.

3.3 The Council has already received three applications which, to varying degrees, better fall within the 'strategic' category identified above. If the revised approach is agreed, Members will be notified of the revised approach, including the availability of funding for strategic projects, and encouraged to identify such projects for consideration.

3.4 An update report will be presented to the Cabinet's November 2018 meeting, to advise on the success or otherwise of the revised approach (if approved).

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