

**COMMUNITY FUND 2019-20 ALLOCATION**  
**WDA/23/18**

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

1. Note the success and outcomes of the 2017-18 Community Fund projects
2. Also note the details of the 2018-19 Community Fund Projects
3. Approve the continuation of the current policy for the allocation of the community fund subject to the inclusion of a weighting for education within the evaluation of applications; and
4. Continue the policy of delegating powers of the Authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson, to approve projects subject to the Community Fund being allocated in line with the agreed funding allocation method.

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## COMMUNITY FUND 2019-20 ALLOCATION

WDA/23/18

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform members of the success and outcome of the 2017-18 Community Fund projects.
- 1.2. Members are asked to note the 2018-19 Community Fund Projects.
- 1.3 Members are asked to approve the continuation of the current policy for the allocation of the community fund subject to the inclusion of a weighting for education within the evaluation of applications.
- 1.4 To confirm Members agreement to continue the policy of delegating powers of the Authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson, to approve final Community Fund projects to be awarded funding.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Authority approved the Community Fund policy framework and the annual scheme in February 2015 (Report WDA 03/15). This introduced the two stage streamlined application process that has operated successfully for four years.
- 2.2 12 projects were funded in 2017-18 and were successfully delivered, the overall outputs are summarised below:
  - **1,222** tonnes of material diverted from landfill
  - **1,181** tonnes reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions
  - **28.4** full time equivalent jobs created or safeguarded
  - **29,435** individuals were directly engaged in the projects
  - **311,963** further people were influenced through engagement with families, community groups, schools and businesses
  - **486** volunteers participated in the projects and **373** of these received skills training as part of their volunteering  
Volunteers contributed a total of **32,132** voluntary hours
  - **12** waste education visits were made to the Recycling Discovery Centre (RDC) by Community Fund projects engaging with **127** people

2.3 These projects have continued to deliver benefits beyond 2017-18 through their legacy and ongoing impact on behavioural change, and in many cases through new or continuing activities.

2.5 The following outputs for 2017-18 demonstrate the social benefits and positive sustainability impacts of the Fund on the Authority, local communities and for the City Region: Highlights include:

- In Knowsley, Centre 63 established the 'Remake Yourself' Hub working with vulnerable and disadvantaged people. 28 people trained in upholstery and upcycling; 120 people benefitted from the Earn-a-Bike scheme by receiving a refurbished bicycle; and 46 workshops provided training in bicycle repair and maintenance. Overall 252 bicycles were refurbished and 375 prevented from disposal.
- St Helens' Carmel College Foundation Learning students, who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and are aged 16-21, established a sensory garden using reused and recycled materials. 55 students were trained in horticultural skills and garden maintenance. These students gained valuable employability skills and, through hard work, created a safe space for students, staff and the local community to enjoy.
- Tomorrows Women Wirral created a Charity Shop from what was an unusable space, transforming it into a thriving business. The shop now provides quality clothing at low cost for ex-offenders and women in vulnerable circumstances. 40 Volunteers have been trained in retail skills and 322 participated in textile reuse skills training, helping to build confidence and employability skills, and reduce the risk of re-offending.
- The Mersey Munchers project established 18 cookery clubs across 3 sectors; Children's Centres, Housing Associations and Further Education Colleges. 86 train-the-trainer cookery sessions reached 1188 beneficiaries with skills to improve diet, reduce food wastage and make financial savings.

### **2018-19 Community Fund Project**

2.6 In the current year fifty one Stage 1 Expressions of Interest (EOI) were received. As in all previous years, the Fund was significantly over

subscribed. The cost to support all of the projects who submitted an EOI would have required a spend of £409,236 i.e. 3.5 times the available £115,000 budget.

- 2.7 Projects were allocated between regional and district level with a maximum award of £25,000 for a regional application and a maximum of £8,000 for a district proposal.
- 2.8 In 2018-19, 14 projects to the value of £114,367 have received support; that is four Regional projects worth £55,650 and 10 District projects worth £58,717; see Appendix 1 for a summary of the projects.
- 2.9 The projects taken forward focus on the Authority's core values to manage waste sustainably within the waste hierarchy (waste prevention, re-use and recycling) and focus on the four priority materials which are: Food, All types of Plastics, Textiles and Furniture.
- 2.10 These 2018-19 projects will be completed by the end of March 2019. Final outcomes from the projects will be reported to the Authority in 2019.

### **3. Community Fund Allocation for 2019-20**

- 3.1 The Community Fund has demonstrated over a number of years a range of benefits for both the Authority through activities that deal with waste sustainably within the waste hierarchy and the regions Community and Voluntary Sector.
- 3.2 Subject to final approval of the Authority's overall budget for 2019-20 Members are asked to consider the continuation of funding for the Community Fund in 2019-20.
- 3.3 It is proposed that monies will be allocated in line with the current agreed policy framework. The budget will be £100,000 with a contribution from Veolia ES of £15,000, to give a funding pot of £115,000. This will be split between regional and district projects with a maximum award of £25,000 for a regional application and a maximum of £8,000 for a district proposal.
- 3.4 The two stage application process will continue and the Funding Policy Framework remains unchanged. The first stage will again target the four priority household waste materials: Food, All types of Plastics, Textiles and Furniture.

- 3.5 The priority materials were identified in the Authority's composition analysis (2016) as materials being thrown away in the residual bin by residents in kerbside collections and at HWRCs which could be reduced, re-used or recycled. The continued targeting of these materials will also provide a reduction in Carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent emissions.
- 3.6 For 2019-20 all applications must include one or more of the four priority materials to be eligible for funding, but projects can also include other household waste materials e.g. paper, card, metals.
- 3.7 At Members request in February 2018 (WDA/01/18), a weighting for education will be included in the application as part of Stage 1 of the process. This will provide opportunity for Organisations to apply for waste education activities that support the aims of the funding and can demonstrate positive influence on waste behaviour.
- 3.8 In line with the available funding and ensuring at least one project per District, those projects with the highest score at Stage 1 evaluation will be invited to submit appropriately detailed project plans in line with Stage 2 of the application process.
- 3.9 A key objective of the Fund is to identify innovation, good ideas and best practice which have the potential to be tested and replicated in other communities and districts; or give an opportunity to scale up to maximise positive impact across the region.

#### **4 Community Fund Approval Process**

- 4.1 Subject to the final Authority budget there is no change to the Community Fund process for 2019-20, other than to include Members request for a weighting for education.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the Chief Executive continues with the existing policy of consulting all Members on the final list of preferred schemes and uses delegated powers, in consultation with the Chairperson, to then approve projects to receive final awards for funding. Final outcomes from the 2018-19 round and those projects receiving funding in the 2019-20 round would be reported to the Authority at a later date.
- 4.3 If approved, 2019-20 Grants would be issued in early April 2019 giving projects a full 12 months delivery time. Outcomes from the projects receiving funding in 2019-20 will be reported to the Authority.

## 5 Risk Implications

5.1 The following risks have been identified:

| Identified Risk  | Likelihood Rating | Consequence Rating | Risk Value | Mitigation  |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| Over subscription to the Fund, the proposals in this report may encourage more applications  | 5                 | 2                  | 10         | The application process is rigorous in project evaluation at Stage 1. Stage 2 application is by invitation to the highest scoring submissions, who have demonstrated robust projects.   |
| The Community and Voluntary Sector are not being supported in the right way to make it easier to participate in the funding process. | 2                 | 4                  | 8          | Officers are able to offer advice on the process (not project ideas or detail) if requested by applicants during the submission period.<br>A Guidance booklet is available to accompany the application paperwork.<br>An 'Application Workshop' will be considered to support the CVS with the process. This will reduce the risk of poor quality bids. |
| Projects are not awarded in every district.  | 2                 | 3                  | 6          | Regional projects should support and benefit all districts. The Application Workshop will endeavour to attract CVS projects from across all Districts.  |
| Challenge by unsuccessful applicants for the grant   | 2                 | 2                  | 4          | Members have approved a policy framework and the criteria to be met. This ensures the evaluation process is equitably applied to all applications.<br>Feedback will be offered to unsuccessful applicants.  |
| Under subscription to the fund   | 1                 | 3                  | 3          | Promotion and communication of the Fund prevents this from happening, but there has been evidence of not getting bids from some district areas in previous years, the Application Workshop will endeavour to attract CVS from across all Districts.   |

## 6 HR Implications

6.1 The Authority has sufficient internal staff resources to ensure the delivery of the 2019-20 Community Funding programme.

## 7 Legal Implications

7.1 The policy and funding procedure ensures the Community Fund is in line with the Authority's Best Value and fiduciary obligations and supports the Authority's statutory duty to address the Waste Hierarchy in line with

regulation 12 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

## **8 Environmental Implications**

8.1 Projects awarded funding will deliver against the Authority's corporate objectives. They will offer clear environmental benefits for sustainable waste and resource management by reducing, re-using and recycling more material and increasing the quality of recyclates. There is potential to encourage wider environmental benefits including reducing litter, fly-tipping and to improve environmental quality in neighbourhoods.

## **9 Financial Implications**

9.1 The Community Fund proposals set out in this report will be subject to budgetary approval being given in February 2019 when the Authority considers the overall budget for 2019-20. Subject to budget approval, the Authority will commit £100,000 to the Community Fund (making a total of £115,000 including Veolia's contribution) for 2019-20.

## **10 Conclusion**

- 10.1 Members are asked to agree, subject to the allocation of the overall Authority budget, to support the Community Fund in 2019-20 and to approve a £100,000 budget.
- 10.2 The aim of the 2019-20 Community Fund is to provide high levels of recycling, re-use and waste prevention that will deliver core objectives and best value outcomes both for the Authority and local communities.
- 10.3 The Community Fund maintains a high standard of governance and delivery of sustainable waste management projects in the Region.
- 10.4 This report seeks to continue the existing Community Fund approval process with the addition of weighting for any education elements. The Chief Executive will consult with all Members on the final list of preferred projects. After which delegated powers are granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson, to then approve projects to receive funding for 2019-20.
- 10.5 Any future decision on changes to the policy framework and apportionment of the funding will continue to be the subject of a report to Members.



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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil