

**COMMUNITY FUND PROGRAMME, 2020-21 OUTCOMES AND 2021-22  
PROGRESS UPDATE  
WDA/21/21 REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

1. Note the success and outcomes of the 2020 -21 Community Fund projects.
2. Also, note the progress of the current 2021-22 Community Fund Programme.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

**COMMUNITY FUND****WDA/20/2021****Report of the Chief Executive****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the success and outcome of the 2020-2021 Community Fund projects.
- 1.2. Members are asked to note the current progress of the 2021-22 Community Fund programme.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Community Fund, as part of the Behavioural Change Programme, has supported the Community Voluntary Sector (CVS) Organisations to deliver successful projects for many years.
- 2.2 The Authority approved the Community Fund Policy Framework and the annual scheme in February 2015 (Report WDA 03/15).
- 2.3 The impact of the pandemic forced changes to projects, despite the many challenges, there has been an effective and positive response from the CVS Organisations the Authority has supported with funding.

**3. 2020-2021 Outcomes and Outputs**

- 3.1 The Community Fund budget for 2020-21 was £150,000, together with the contribution from Veolia ES of £15,000, to give a funding pot of £165,000.
- 3.2 34 applications for funding were received and evaluated in line with the approved scoring criteria. Members agreed an extension to the delivery period of 3 months, until June 2021. To minimise the risk of financial default, awards were made by interim stage payments.
- 3.3 Projects concentrated on four priority materials, Food, Furniture, Plastics and Textiles. The reuse or recycling of these materials provided Carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent reductions in emissions.
- 3.4 The Community Funding spend for 2020-21, for 13 projects, was £135,057 That was 3 Regional projects funded with £67,941 and 10 District projects with £67,116.

**Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority****WDA/21/21**24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

3.5 The Community Voluntary Sector provided £133,491 of in-kind equivalent support, giving a total package value of £268,548.

3.6 The table below summarises the outputs of the 2020-21 Community Fund projects.

Outputs	Target	Actual	% Achieved
Tonnes Diverted	464	291	63%
CO <sub>2e</sub> equivalent reduction	822	541	66%
Direct Engagement	40,439	19,915	49%
Volunteer Hours	11,546	12,125	105%
Community Events (many on-line)	91	85	93%
Training Sessions (many on-line)	411	451	110%
Wider Engagement	No target set	28,361	

3.7 For more detail, see tables in Appendix 1, with Table 1 summarising further these outputs, and Table 2 showing achievements against target and comments for each of the individual 13 projects.

### 3.8 Media Coverage

There was an increase on the previous year in the media coverage generated by the 2020-21 projects. There was 51 media articles, including national and local press, trade press, web-news, and radio appearances. The value of this press coverage being equivalent to £40,211 'paid for' coverage. This added value has been included in 3.9 below.

### 3.9 Added Value

In terms of 'Added Value', the impacts achieved through the 2020-21 projects have been significant. We have measured this value using metrics, based on; the average cost of waste diversion, the DEFRA metric for carbon reduction, information from studies conducted by WRAP<sup>1</sup> and on proportions of the national Living Wage. This estimates the level of financial investment that would otherwise have been required to achieve these impacts. Appendix 1, Table 3 shows the equivalent 'added value', expressed in monetary terms.

---

<sup>1</sup> WRAP – The Waste Resources Action Programme - WRAP works with governments, businesses, and communities to deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency.

- 3.9.1 This 'value' can be considered in terms of return on investment. The 2020-21 Community Fund spend of £135,057. achieved an added value of £768,931. giving a return on investment (R.O.I) of 1: 5.7 i.e. for every one pound of investment the funding realised £5.70 in equivalent value.
- 3.9.2 If the 'in-kind support' and CVS contribution of £133,491, is also included the added value is £902,422. This gives a R.O.I of 1: 6.7 i.e. for every pound of funding, projects realised £6.68 in equivalent value.

### 3.10 **Social Value.**

7 CVS Organisations returned Social Value information , with evidence from 34 participants. £1,456,353. equivalent pounds were identified in terms of social value impact. Table 4 in Appendix 1 shows the details of the results.

## 4.0 **2021 -22 Community Fund Projects.**

- 4.1 £150,000 was approved together with the £15,000 contribution from Veolia giving a funding pot of £165,000 for the 2021-22 Community Fund.
- 4.2 Community Fund 2021-2022 was launched on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with a submission window of five weeks and 48 applications returned by 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 closing date.
- 4.3 After assessment using the criteria and framework, funding of £164,999. was accepted by 17 Organisations. This is to support 5 Regional projects with £83,557. and 12 District projects with £81,442. There is at least one project in each District area of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership. Appendix 1, Table 5, details the Community Fund 2021-2022 current years' projects, outputs and spend.
- 4.5 As further support for this year's projects MRWA is hosting an 'All Project' meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021, so the current Community Organisations have an opportunity to network together.
- 4.6 The overall final outcomes for the 2021-22 projects will be reported to the Authority later in 2022.

## 5. Risk Implications

5.1 The following risks have been identified for the 2022-2023 Community Fund Programme.

Identified Risk	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Value	Mitigation
Projects accept funding but projects don't go ahead	3	3	9	Funding released in interim payments with next stages dependent on progress completion to revised plan.
				Parties agree to a service level agreement. If it becomes necessary a % of funding could be retained/clawed back, determined by the amount of progress achieved.
Project Lead and/or Volunteers, Facilitators unavailable	4	3	12	This could stop or significantly delay project until replacement can be in place. Most Organisations work in teams to deliver projects and others will cover absences.
Difficulties in Projects attracting Volunteers	3	3	9	Additional support for volunteers (telephone, zoom, mental health resilience, etc). CVS intend to use multiple communication methods to help existing and recruit new Volunteers.
Projects don't complete by March 2023	4	4	16	Where possible revise timetable to make up time aiming to complete as close to March 2023 as possible.
Ongoing COVID-19 Risks				
Resurgence of virus mutations	4	3	12	Project delivery will comply with measures in accordance with Public Health England and Government guidelines.
				Due to lessons learnt, measures can be put into place quickly to stem the effects of resurgence of virus.
				Review project progress at such times and explore alternative delivery mechanisms e.g. digital platforms.
Projects that depend heavily on movement / travel, will be affected	3	4	12	CVS will use communication methods and digital software (e.g. zoom, You-Tube, Microsoft Team Meetings) to hold online workshops, training, events etc. if travel becomes difficult.
Authority suffers loss of reputation if funding is suspended or withdrawn	3	3	9	There could be negative response if funding is suspended or withdrawn, risking damage to the Authorities reputation.
				There is risk that suspending funding will negatively impact on any future uptake of Community Funding.
				There is a risk that other behavioural change initiatives (circular economy club, reuse network) could lose future support from CVS and SMEs.

## 6 HR Implications

6.1 The Authority has sufficient internal staff resources to ensure the delivery of the 2022-2023 Community Funding programme.

## 7 Legal Implications

7.1 The policy framework 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 that are awarded Community Fund makes towards the Authority's response to the 'declaration of a climate emergency', which Members stated in 2019. Also, projects demonstrate progress against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- 8.2 Projects awarded funding in 2022-23 will deliver against the Authority's corporate objectives. They will offer clear environmental benefits for sustainable waste and resource management by reducing, re-using, refurbishing, and recycling more material and increasing the quality of recyclates.

## **9 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The policy and funding procedures ensure that control measures are commensurate to the budget and the risks associated with achieving value for money.

## **10 Conclusion**

- 10.1 Members are asked to note the success and outcome of the 2020-2021 Community Fund projects.
- 10.2 Members are also asked to note the current progress of the 2021-22 Community Fund Projects.
- 10.3 The Community Fund will maintain a high standard of governance and delivery of sustainable waste management projects across the Region and a contribution to the Behavioural Change programme, Sustainable Development Goals, and to the declaration of a climate emergency (2019).
- 10.4 The final outcomes for projects funded in 2021-2022 will be reported to the Authority later in 2022. Any future decision on changes to the policy framework and apportionment of the funding will be the subject of a report to Members.

The contact officer for this report is: Chris O'Brien  
7th Floor  
No 1 Mann Island  
Liverpool L3 1BP

Email: [chris.obrien@merseysidewda.gov.uk](mailto:chris.obrien@merseysidewda.gov.uk)

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