

Report to	On
Council	Wednesday, 19 May 2021



Title	Report of
Community Hubs Boost Fund - Round One Allocations	Director of Communities

Is this report confidential?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. Confirmation of allocations from round one of the Community Hubs Boost Fund.

Recommendations

2. Council notes the following allocations from round one of the Community Hubs Boost Fund.

Hub	Project	Allocation
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale	Bamber Bridge Foodbank Premises	£7250
Eastern Parishes	Gregson Lane Changing Rooms	£6307
Leyland & Farington	Eagle & Child Bowling Green Entrance	£2500
	Farington Lodges Improvements	£3325
Penwortham	Conservation Area Signage	£1020
	Mental Health Awareness	£900
TOTAL		£21,302

Reasons for recommendations

3. Bids for the round one of the Boost Fund were received from four of the five Community Hubs. Each bid was considered individually by the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building.
4. All bids received were deemed to have merit and align with the spirit of the fund. With the exception of Penwortham's Mental Health Awareness project, hubs have been allocated 50% of the amount they requested.
5. Overlap between the Penwortham Hub Mental Health bid and the corporate mental health project meant that funding for Community Mental Health First Aiders is already being provided. Officers will work with Penwortham members to ensure relevant links are made locally.

6. Each of the allocations set out in the table above carries a requirement for respective community hubs to match fund 50%, to enable projects to be delivered in a timely manner.
7. All underspend of the £25,000 budget from round one will be carried forward to round two. The deadline for round two bids is 31 October 2021; this has been added to the forward plans of hub planning meetings for advance discussion.

Other options considered and rejected

8. Bids to round one of the Boost Fund totalled £46,505, against a budget of £25,000. Consideration was given to fully funding fewer projects, but all bids met the required criteria. Given that all hubs have carried forward underspends into 2021/22, it was agreed that match funding was a workable and fair approach to deliver priority projects.

Corporate outcomes

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	✓	Thriving communities	✓
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	✓

Background to the report

10. Each of South Ribble Borough Council's five Community Hubs has access to their own funding for community development projects. In addition to this there is an annual £25,000 Boost Fund available for all Community Hubs to bid into.
11. The Boost Fund is designed for projects which are going to have a positive long-lasting impact on the communities they are working with, and as such are required to meet certain criteria and priority points:
 - The project must be contained within the action plan for the Community Hub.
 - The project should be able to commence a maximum of six months after the funding has been issued and should demonstrate that positive impacts are going to be made in the first 12 months.
 - The project should meet one of the corporate plan priorities, and the project should broadly cover all of the points.
 - The project should have social value, and this should be demonstrated in the application.
 - Ideally, projects should seek to reach further into the community and increase the engagement of residents who don't necessarily always engage. Applications should clearly demonstrate what demographic of the community they are seeking to meet.

12. Round one of the Boost Fund was launched in March 2021. The application form is attached at Appendix A; each bid must have the support and sign off from the Hub Chair in order to be considered.

Risk

13. The range of projects being supported by the Boost Fund varies significantly, in terms of scale, value and numbers of stakeholders. Some projects are 'internal' to SRBC, others are partnerships or have interdependencies with external agencies. Officers will work closely with Hub Chairs to ensure that project risks are identified, managed and clearly communicated.
14. If there is a risk to project delivery, e.g. timescale slippage is unavoidable, project summary documents will be updated and circulated at hub planning meetings.

Equality and diversity

15. Projects contained within the action plans are designed to be inclusive, accessible and bring communities together.
16. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for each of the plans; there are no potential negative impacts on any of the protected groups. There are specific positive impacts on age and disability, through projects which will help to reduce social isolation and offer inclusive opportunities for physical activity.

Air quality implications

17. It is good to see that Air Quality implications have been discussed of each project and the Farington Lodges project supports bio-diversity and encourages our community to enjoy the environment we have to offer in South Ribble.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

18. The £25k referred to in this report is from the 20/21 budget allocation and will be carried forward to allow this spend to be funded. There is a further £25k available in the 21/22 budget.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

19. There are no concerns with what is proposed here from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

Appendices

Appendix A – Boost Fund Application Form

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

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