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Community Hub Chairs

Dear Councillor,

As you are aware, I brought a report to Cabinet last night (24 March) which included Community Hub Action Plans and Area Profiles. Cabinet has committed to a period of twelve months, during which time each Community Hub is being asked to consult on, design and develop its own model of community engagement, deliver meaningful action plans, and to track its success.

I have committed to bringing back a report to the June Cabinet about the Hubs; part of this paper will detail how the Community Hubs have addressed the recommendations of the Cross-Party Working Group, which were subsequently agreed by Cabinet:

- Level of community interaction and engagement
- Level of community development and volunteering
- Promotion of co-operative values (self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity)
- Engagement with young people
- Strengthening the voluntary, community and faith sector.
- Delivery of community priorities through forum projects
- Engagement with parish and town councils (where applicable)

Can I please ask you to review the work you are undertaking in your Hub to ensure that the agreed recommendations above have been addressed. As part of this, it is important that we understand how each hub engages with the Parish Councils moving forward and how projects are going to be taken forward jointly where appropriate.

In addition to this, area profiles have been drawn up to 'tell the story' of each hub area, based on statistical data and local knowledge, to help members determine local need. These documents are live documents and will be regularly updated by your Community Development Officer. These area profiles have identified local needs and areas of opportunities for development. Please can you to consider how your action plan projects will be informed by the intelligence set out in the area profiles. It is intended that the Community Hub Chairs will ensure that these opportunities are not missed and are addressed in the action plans.

The cabinet paper included the funds the hubs have access to as detailed below:

Area	Annual Budget	Reserves carried forward
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale	£5,500	£27,600
Eastern Parishes	£2,000	£9114

Leyland & Farington	£9,000	£18,052
Penwortham	£5,000	£7129
Western Parishes	£3,500	£4933

In addition to the above resource, a £25,000 Boost Fund has been allocated in the Council's budget for Hubs to be able to bid into, to provide match funding for larger or partnership schemes. I have made a request that bids for this year's allocation must be submitted by the end of March. The application form has been e-mailed to you, and Community Development officers will work with you to complete it. Each bid will be assessed on how they address the key area set out above and projects must be related to those agreed on your action plans. Looking forward into 2021/22, the next round applications to the Boost Fund should be made no later than the 31 October 2021.

You have the full support of the Communities Service, Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities) and myself throughout the transition period. In addition, more regular Forum Chair and Vice Chair meetings have been scheduled; creating a peer support network to share learning across areas. If you have any queries or would like any more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Jennifer, Rebecca or myself.

Kind regards



Aniela Bylinski Gelder
Cabinet Member for Communities Social Justice and Wealth Building