

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building))	Cabinet	Monday, 20 June 2022

Boost Fund Plus 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards

Purpose of the Report

1. This report brings together the outcomes of Round 3 of the Boost Fund and a series of grant proposals for Boost Fund Plus.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. Cabinet is asked to note the decisions of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building in Round 3 of the Boost Fund.
3. Cabinet is asked to approve grant funding proposals for Boost Fund Plus.
4. Cabinet is asked to approve retention of unallocated budget for further community projects in 2022/23.

Reasons for recommendations

5. Boost Fund Round 3 closed on 31 March, applications from community hubs were considered in April and results are attached at Appendix A.
6. Boost Fund Plus closed on 9 May, community hubs then met to triage and shortlist bids before the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building considered those bids endorsed by hubs. Bids recommended for funding are attached at Appendix B.
7. The opportunity to create a pedestrian crossing in Farington, although outside the Boost Fund Plus, is in line with investment in priorities which have been identified by local residents.

Other options considered and rejected

8. Boost Fund Round 3 received bids from all community hubs which were discussed and considered, as outlined in Appendix A.
9. Boost Fund Plus bids were received from a wide range of applicants and triaged by community hubs. Only those endorsed by the hubs were then considered by the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building.
10. Boost Fund Plus bids which related to leisure and sport were redirected to the Leisure Local Community Fund, for consideration by the Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Corporate priorities

11. 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

12. At Budget Cabinet on 9 February, approval was given to the creation of a community support fund of £200k to work alongside the existing Boost Fund, as part of a suite of investment budgets to enable COVID recovery and support South Ribble communities to thrive. At the Budget Council meeting later in the month, this was increased to £250k.
13. In addition, £100,000 of the Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) was allocated to the same budget. Combined, this offers £350,000 as a Boost Fund Plus for community groups to access.
14. A webpage was set up on the Council's website with an online application form and guidance notes to support applications. This was actively shared amongst networks by members and officers on social media, by e-mail and word of mouth.
15. Cabinet indicated that community hubs should be included in the Boost Fund Plus decision making process, and act as a triage for applications, on a geographical basis. Extraordinary hub planning meetings were held, supported by the Community Development team.

Proposals – Boost Fund Plus

16. Following hub shortlisting, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building appraised all bids which had been endorsed by hubs. The applications subsequently recommended for funding awards are listed at Appendix B.
17. In considering bids to the Boost Fund Plus, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building identified a number of applications

which were submitted to both Boost Fund Plus and Leisure Local Community Fund, which related more to leisure and sport – these were subsequently re-directed to be considered as part of the Leisure Local Community Fund..

18. If proposed recommendations are approved by Cabinet, applicants will be notified and officers will draw up grant agreements to release funding and set out monitoring arrangements.
19. Outcomes and benefits from projects funded by Boost Fund Plus will be reported back to Cabinet in due course.
20. It is proposed that unallocated budget from Boost Fund Plus is retained for further community projects in 2022/23. All future spend will be approved by Executive Member Decision(s) by the Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building), in consultation with the Director of Communities.

Climate change and air quality

21. The grant proposals set out in Appendix B contain a number of initiatives which support the Council's Green Agenda. These include enhancements to buildings to improve energy efficiency, improving paths and walking routes, creating green spaces, new planting and encouraging biodiversity.

Governance

22. Scoring matrices were used to ensure that all applications were scored fairly, assessing project outcomes, demonstratable need, community involvement, target demographic, alignment with Council priorities, timescale, social justice, feasibility, sustainability/legacy, and community wealth building.
23. Following the announcement of successful applications, the Communities team will work closely with the Council's Legal department to draft robust grant agreements. This will include a commitment to project timescales, value for money, social value, and community benefit, whilst also exploring options for contingencies.
24. Applicants will also be expected to provide content for communications, both during project delivery and upon completion. Grant agreements will be monitored by the Communities team through the project delivery period, with regular updates being provided to members via the Community Hubs and key officers via 'Delivery Plan' meetings.

Equality and diversity

25. The grant proposals set out in Appendix B support projects and schemes which are inclusive to all sections of the community.
26. Equality impact has been considered by officers and members through triage discussions; there are no potential negative impacts on any of the protected groups identified in the Equality Act. There are demonstrable positive impacts on maternity, age and disability.

Risk

27. A risk register will be created for each of the successful applications before funding is awarded. Due to the varied and diverse nature of applications, these will be completed on an individual basis.
28. Grant agreements will contain monitoring requirements which are timely and proportionate to the value of the grant supplied. The Council's Audit and Legal Teams will be proactively involved in the drafting of agreements.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

29. The Boost Fund forms part of the hubs funding and is within the approved budget. Boost Fund Plus is a mixture of reserves, COMF and one off budget. Following the allocation of £283,849 this leaves £66,151 remaining to be allocated.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

30. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective. There are two aspects to this report. Firstly that part of the report that relates to Round 3 of the Boost Fund is simply for noting. Secondly approval is sought for grant funding proposals for Boost Fund Plus.

Background documents

www.southribble.gov.uk/boostfundplus

Appendices

Appendix A – Boost Fund Round 3 Results

Appendix B – Boost Fund Plus Successful Applications

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