

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE

Meeting date: 5 January 2022

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

CARLISLE COMMUNITY GROUPS WINTER HOUSEHOLD FUND

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *This report provides local committee with recommendations and matters to note with regards to the Household Support Fund 21/22*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *The items covered by this report support the council to achieve the outcomes stated in the Council Plan 2018-2022:*

- *People in Cumbria are healthy and safe*
- *Places in Cumbria are well-connected and thriving*
- *The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone*

2.2 *The items covered by this report support Carlisle Local Committee to achieve its agreed priorities of:*

- *Developing our economy and infrastructure*
- *Improving health and wellbeing*
- *Improving outcomes for children and young people*
- *Developing thriving communities*
- *The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone*

2.3 *Improved locality working is one of the ways the council is delivering on its priorities. The county council vision, included in the Council Plan 2018-2022, sets out that it will be 'A Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources.' The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to this vision.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Committee agrees the following recommendations for Community Groups in Carlisle from the Household Support Fund.

- **£22,000 for Carlisle Matters (Carlisle Federation of Community Centres) to provide funding via the 11 Member organisations within the scheme which includes Longtown, Harraby, Petteril Bank, Currock, Greystone, Yewdale, Morton, Brampton, Botcherby and Belah Community Centres. This will be wide ranging support to include food, fuel, bills, household items, essentials and wider essentials.**
- **£10,000 for Carlisle Key. This will be wide ranging support to include food, fuel, bills, household items, essentials and wider essentials.**
- **£10,000 for Gateway 4 Women. This will be wide ranging support to include food, fuel, bills, household items, essentials and wider essentials.**
- **£10,000 for Rebike. Towards essential transport related costs – buying a bicycle**
- **£10,000 for Carlisle Community Help. This will be wide ranging support to include food, fuel, bills, household items, essentials and wider essentials.**
- **£10,000 for Carlisle Foodbank. Towards food and other essential items**
- **£10,000 Cumbria Meals on Wheels. Towards delivering hot food**

3.2 That the Committee notes the commitments made for Community Groups in Carlisle from the Household Support Fund as listed below:

- **£5,000 Brampton Area Action Group towards food, essential items and wider essentials**
- **£3,000 Cornerstone, Denton Holme towards food, essential items and wider essentials**
- **£2,000 Brampton Acting Together towards food, essential items and wider essentials**
- **£2,000 St Herbert's Church, Currock towards food, essential items and wider essentials**
- **£2,000 Elim Community Church (Oasis Food Pantry) towards food, essential items and wider essentials**
- **£2,000 The Parish of Four Communities (TP4C) towards food, essential items and wider essentials**
- **£2,000 Vineyard Church towards food, essential items and wider essentials.**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This is a late urgent item for Local Committee to consider. The matter is urgent given that in view of the timescales involved a decision at the next local committee would be too late for the funding to be spent. The deadline for spending is the 31 March 2022.

- 4.2 An announcement was made by the Government on 6 October 2021, regarding a package of support for vulnerable families called the Household Support Fund that will run from the 6th October to 31 March 2022.
- 4.3 Under the scheme administered through the DWP, upper tier local authorities are being funded to establish programmes to deliver support between the 6 October and 31 March 2021. The programmes are to cover:
- 4.4 At least 80% on food and household energy/utilities, and up to 20% on other essential items including hygiene products, boiler repairs and white goods;
- 4.5 At least 50% of the grant to be spent on households where at least one person is aged below 19 by 31 March 2022, and up to 50% for vulnerable adults (eligibility to be determined by the local authority);
- 4.6 There are no further eligibility criteria or mean-testing requirements, and local authorities have flexibility on what proportion of support goes to food or energy/utilities.
- 4.7 A decision was made with regards to this funding on the 17th December and an allocation of £100,000 was provided for Carlisle Community Groups.
- 4.8 A package of support has been developed cross-county with funding allocated for Free School Meals, Ways to Welfare, Citizens Advice, Family Support, support for those affected by Domestic Abuse, Care Leavers & SEND.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members may review and evaluate the recommendations. Members may choose to approve, vary or reject the recommendations. Members may wish to comment on other aspects contained within the report.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Officer Decision Record of the Executive Director - People on 17th December has allocated £100k from the DWP Household Support Fund to be distributed directly to small Third Sector Organisations to cover existing funding requests which meet the DWP eligibility criteria. The funding must be paid over to these organisations by 31st March 2022 to qualify.
- 6.2 Recommendation 3.1. of this report seeks approval to allocate £81k of this funding and recommendation 3.2. is to note the allocation of £18k of commitments that are £5k or below.
- 6.3 If approved, these recommendations will commit £99k of the £100k allocated to the Local Committee.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 By virtue of a decision of the Executive Director - People on 17 December 2021, the Carlisle Local Committee has been allocated £100,000 to be distributed directly to small Third Sector Organisations to cover existing funding requests received which meet the DWP criteria.

- 7.2 The Local Committee authority to make the grants outlined in this report (which are not simply to note) is contained in Part 2D of the Council's Constitution and 5.1.2(d) enables the Local Committee to approve applications for grants which exceed £5,000 in line with the policy.
- 7.3 The grants stated above to be noted (those being less than £5,000), are able to be reviewed and evaluated by the Local Committee to the extent they have been awarded from the Local Committee's budget (paragraph 5.1.2 e) of Part 2D of the Council's Constitution.
- 7.4 The recommendations in this report are a proper decision for the Local Committee provided that the grants meet the criteria for award as set by the DWP.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report provides local committee with recommendations and matters to note with regards to the Household Support Fund

Dawn Roberts

Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

4 January 2022

APPENDICES

No appendices

Electoral Divisions: All

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

REPORT AUTHOR

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