

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 13 July 2017

### Report of the Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Services

**Part I**

Electoral Divisions affected:  
All

### Local Initiative Fund 2017/18

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

This report seeks approval from Cabinet to launch the Local Initiative Fund (LIF) scheme for 2017/18 incorporating recommendations of the former Cabinet Working Group for the Third Sector.

The LIF scheme is now into its seventh year and offers an opportunity for Third Sector organisations across Lancashire to apply for funding in order to help deliver local and Lancashire County Council priorities.

#### Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the following recommendations:

- (i) That the LIF scheme for 2017/18 be launched and bids be invited for funding from the Third Sector.
- (ii) That the underspend of £18,080.67 be brought forward from the 2016/17 LIF scheme and be added to the relevant districts budget for the LIF 2017/18 scheme.
- (iii) That the underspend of £28,550.58 from Local Member Grants Scheme for 2016/17 be brought forward to the relevant district's budget for the LIF 2017/18 scheme.
- (iv) That officers, in consultation with the Head of Service, Legal and Democratic Services, keep the LIF scheme under regular review and make minor changes to maintain expedient delivery of the programme as deemed appropriate.

## **Background and Advice**

The County Council has a long and sustained relationship with the Third Sector in Lancashire. This has been reinforced and shaped by Central Government policy direction over recent years. Increasingly the funding aspect of the relationship has changed with the grant awarding processes becoming more competitive. Other important aspects of the relationship centre on the role of the sector in representing sector views and position; this has further been enhanced by the Government's recent Transforming Local Infrastructure (TLI) initiative.

The County Council makes Grants under the general power of competence set out at Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, which replaces the well-being power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 for local authorities in England. Section 1(1) of the Localism Act sets out that a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do.

## **Local Initiative Fund (LIF) 2017/18**

The LIF scheme is now into its seventh year and offers an opportunity for Third Sector organisations across Lancashire to apply for funding in order to help deliver local and the County Council's priorities. The LIF is available to support new project costs and one off activity costs only.

The LIF scheme has three specific priority areas for funding. Applicants need to show that their project will meet at least one of these priority areas:

- Supporting Families (The aim of the programme is to identify and work with families experiencing multiple and complex difficulties)
- Skills and Employment Initiatives (Focus is on employability or young people Not in Employment, Education and Training, (NEETS))
- Providing Activities and Programmes for Young People aged 12 – 19 (up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities)

## **LIF Priorities and Guidance**

In line with best practice the guidance is reviewed each year to ensure that the best advice possible is provided to applicants. Earlier this year, the Cabinet Working Group for the Third Sector recommended that no significant changes be made to the scheme.

Minor amendments to the application pack as a whole have been made in order to aid the application process for both applicants and officers.

## Budget

The LIF scheme is an annual programme which runs within the financial year. The baseline budget for the scheme for 2017/18 is £127,620. The LIF scheme has always allowed for underspend from the previous financial year to be carried forward into the next financial year and therefore the current underspend of £18,080.67 will be brought forward to bring the total to £145,700.67. In addition to this, underspend from the Local Member Grants (LMGs) scheme from 2016/17 totalling £28,550.58 will also be transferred into the LIF for the relevant district and a total of £3,294.50 for unclaimed payments has also been included in the figures. Table 1 shows the budget breakdown and amount available for each district for 2017/18.

**Table 1**

<b>District</b>	<b>2017/18 LIF Baseline Budget</b>	<b>2016/17 LIF Unspent Funds Brought Forward</b>	<b>Unclaimed payments back into LIF</b>	<b>2016/17 Unspent Funds LMG</b>	<b>Total LIF 17/18 budget</b>
Burnley	£11,787.00	£1,746.64		£1,459.86	£14,993.50
Chorley	£10,230.00	£3,583.00		£5,134.17	£18,947.17
Fylde	£9,200.00	£3,978.65		£2,763.11	£15,941.76
Hyndburn	£11,407.00	£1,036.86	£1,794.50	£3,751.00	£17,989.36
Lancaster	£11,489.00	£942.60		£6,490.11	£18,921.71
Pendle	£11,198.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	£4,545.82	£17,243.82
Preston	£11,810.00	£3,053.03		£1,044.03	£15,907.06
Ribble Valley	£10,437.00	£2,734.77		£38.20	£13,209.97
Rosendale	£8,316.00	£0.00		£395.86	£8,711.86
South Ribble	£9,723.00	£1,005.02		£2,723.92	£13,451.94
West Lancs	£11,288.00	£0.10			£11,288.10
Wyre	£10,735.00	£0.00		£204.50	£10,939.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£127,620.00</b>	<b>£18,080.67</b>	<b>£3,294.50</b>	<b>£28,550.58</b>	<b>£177,545.75</b>

## Timescales

The timetable below provides estimated dates for the 2017/18 round of funding, these may be subject to internal changes. If the total amount of funding available is not allocated in the initial funding round, then a further round will be incorporated into the programme later on in the year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Mid July 2017	Report to Cabinet requesting approval to launch the scheme.
19 July 2017	Bidding for LIF 2017/18 to begin.
1 September 2017	Deadline for applications to be submitted.
September 2017	Internal assessment and scoring of applications.

October 2017	Consultation with the Deputy Leader and recommendations to be considered by the Senior Management Team.
9 November 2017	Report to be presented to Cabinet to consider recommendations.
Mid November 2017	Decision letters to be sent out to organisations.
December 2017	Grant Funding Agreements to be issued to successful organisations and payments authorised once documentation returned.
February 2018	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of funding to be launched in those districts where at least £5,000 remains.

### **Consultations**

The former Cabinet Working Group for the Third Sector was consulted on the proposals in this report on 14 February 2017. The Cabinet Working Group supported all of the recommendations.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Financial**

The proposals include a baseline budget for the scheme for £127,620 for the 2017/18 financial year. Underspend for the last financial year totals £18,080.67 taking the available to spend for 2017/18 to £145,700.67. Underspend from the Local Member Grants Scheme for £28,550.58 and unclaimed projects totalling £3,294.50 have also been brought forward and added to the total available to spend for the 2017/18 financial year.

### **Risk management**

The risks identified relate to reputational and relationship management issues arising from decisions to reject funding applications. Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. Like many parts of the public sector, Councils are under acute pressure and further austerity measures are expected for the foreseeable future. Whilst the County Council is committed to continuing our support to the Third Sector in Lancashire, applicants were informed at the start of the 2016/17 funding round that the County Council is unable to confirm whether any funding will be available for future rounds beyond 2017/18.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Local Initiative Fund Scheme 2016/17 Round 2	08/03/17	Misbah Bhatti/01772 530818
Local Initiative Fund Scheme 2016/17	30/06/17	Misbah Bhatti/01772 530818

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A