

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion
2. Date:	22 nd July, 2013
3. Title:	Community Leadership Fund 2012/13
4. Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

This report provides confirmation of the Community Leadership Fund (CLF) total expenditure for the financial year 2012/13.

The report also provides examples of the type of activity supported by the CLF, in particular related to the key strategic themes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

A full list of all projects supported during 2012/13 is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

6. Recommendations

That

- Cabinet Member receives and notes the expenditure of the Community Leadership Fund for 2013/13.

7. Proposals and Details

The Community Leadership Fund provides annual funding of £1000 to each ward member. CLF funding is allocated by ward members to address local priorities, support local groups and address emerging issues within their communities. The CLF plays a vital role in enabling ward members to optimise their community leadership role, by actively responding to community issues and supporting voluntary and community groups and organisations in delivering solutions on the ground.

During 2012/13 Members supported nearly 200 individual projects. In addition a number of cross ward initiatives were also supported including Rotherham Neuro Support Group, the Food Crisis Partnership, Rotherham Hard of Hearing, Open Minds Theatre Company and Rotherham Holiday Aid.

Much of the funding is committed to projects and activities that have a direct link with the key strategic themes and objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan. The table below provides examples of this:-

Making Sure no Community is left behind	
Rotherham Hard of Hearing	Equipment/attracting new users to the group
Food Crisis partnership	Food for disadvantaged families at Christmas
Rotherham Autism	Ten pin bowling club for autistic children
Rotherham Holiday Aid	Breaks for disadvantaged families
WING	Support services for OAP's in Wickersley and Hellaby
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	Providing courses on healthy eating/lifestyles
Helping to create safe and healthy communities	
Rother Valley West Youth Forum	Easter Activities for young people
Laughton en Le Morthern PC	Community walking event
Clifton Community Partnership	Over 50's exercise classes.
Mason Avenue Ladies	Exercise classes for elderly residents
Safe at Last	Promotional material to safeguard vulnerable adults.
Millmoor Juniors FC	Purchase of a heart defibrillator
Rotherham North SNT	Mountain bike equipment for local police patrols
Improving the environment	
Casting Innovations Dinnington.	School recycling projects in Canklow and
Hellaby Project	Plants for village flowerbeds
Brampton Ellis Primary School	Dog fouling signs for West Melton park using pupils designs.
Wentworth Valley Area Assembly	Clean up equipment for Manor fields.
Friends of Ulley Country Park	Tables for the visitor centre to increase visitor numbers.
KP Community Partnership	Hampstead Green improvements gardening project.
Ensuring quality education for all	

Hillcrest Early Years skills	Outdoor writing daises to encourage fine motor skills
Anston Pre School	Small world learning resources
Woodsetts Primary School	Plants for school sensory garden.
Canklow Woods Primary School	Local democracy newsletter to encourage engagement with young people
Maltby Youth Centre	Sending young people on a national citizenship service programme.
Monkwood Primary School	Purchasing awards for school attendance project.

A full list of all projects supported during 2012/13 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

A feedback form is completed for each project requesting details of the project outputs. This is placed on file with the original funding application. It is clear from the feedback received that the CLF has enabled ward members to be well placed to respond to a range of local concerns and to support local needs and projects. This undoubtedly leads to positive outcomes and relationships with local communities.

A small selection of feedback quotes is provided in the table below to underline the significant difference that sometimes even minor amounts of funding can make:-

Hillcrest Early Years, Anston Community Centre, (Anston and Woodsetts Ward)

“The daisy chalk boards enhanced the environment and promoted opportunities for the children to write/make marks outside and develop their fine motor skills”

Ann Field, Pre School Manager

YMCA White Rose, Community Eid Party, (Boston Castle and Rotherham East Ward)

“Over 100 attended the event from a wide range of backgrounds. The event brought the community together and built links between different organisations working locally.”

Fran Redmore, My Place Business Manager

Rotherham Neighbourhood Watch, (Hellaby Ward)

“The grant is very welcome income for our group and we have more members attending now than ever. We work very closely with the police and this has helped get more information out to the community”

Joan Foxton, Treasurer, Rotherham Neighbourhood Watch

Kimberworth Park Community Partnership, Trip to the seaside for low income families, (Keppel, Wingfield and Rotherham West Wards)

“Many families are feeling the impact of the recession and because of the difficult economic crisis and its effects on local people we would like to revive a tradition of taking children out for the day to the coast. A great day out was had by all”.

Gail Ansell, Company Administrator.

High Street Centre, Rawmarsh, Young People Three Peaks Challenge, (Rawmarsh Ward)

“The funding allowed the High Street Centre to transport a group of local young people to the Yorkshire Dales to complete the 3 Peak Challenge. The young people said they were proud of what they had done and enjoyed being part of a team”

Caroline Langston, Centre Development Manager

Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, Young Peoples Workshops, (Rotherham East and Rotherham West Wards)

“The event raised awareness of crime and it’s consequences along with safety on the internet. The event was attended by 20 young people from Wath, Eastwood and Ferham and supported by the Police and two local housing associations”

Mark Cummins, Cohesion Officer.

Herringthorpe Valley Youth Centre, Summer programme of activities for young people, (Valley Ward)

“The grant enabled young people that access the unit to engage in activities otherwise alien to them. It encouraged and developed community cohesion increasing the positive profile of young people. The grant contributed to an increase in centre users”

Matt Ellis, Youth Worker

To further highlight the value of the Community Leadership Fund this year, ward members have had the opportunity to list the projects they have supported on their own individual information pages on the Councils website. This is regularly updated by the Community Liaison Officer within the Area Partnership Team. It is hoped to develop this further in the future to include project feedback and photographs. In addition to this ward members can now access their latest spending information and project listings on the Councils internal intranet system.

8. Finance

The available CLF funding for 2012/13, including funding carried forward from 2011/12, was £82,620. During 2012/13 ward members allocated £61,372 of funding.

For the financial year 2013/14 ward members were able to carry forward up to £750 each resulting in a carry forward figure of £21,248. This combined with the annual CLF funding for 2013/14 provides a total fund of £84,248.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Community Leadership Fund supports grass roots local organisations and the leadership role of the Ward Member and is an effective tool available to ward members to directly address local issues and concerns. Any reduction in funding will have a negative impact on the community leadership role of individual ward councillors particularly at a time when national and regional funding to the voluntary and community sector and is being reduced or withdrawn.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The breadth and diversity of projects supported by the Fund contributes to all five strands of the Corporate Plan and in particular to:-

- Making sure no community is left behind
- Helping to create safe and healthy communities.
- Improving the environment
- Ensuring quality education for all

This key theme is reflected within Strategic Objective 5 of the NAS Service Plan 2010-13:-

We will ensure that Citizens are satisfied with their community as a place to live

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Communities and Local Government Committee: Councillors on the Front Line December 2013.

RMBC Corporate Plan October 2010.

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