

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Members Community Leadership Fund - Flexibility to Carry Forward Under-Spend.</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### 5. Summary

To report the current position regarding expenditure of the Community Leadership Fund 2013/14.

To request a carry forward of funding into the financial year 2014/15.

### 6. Recommendations

- That Cabinet Member approves a carry forward of a maximum of £1000 per elected member into the financial year 2014/15.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

### **7.1 Background**

The Community Leadership Fund was established in 2003 to enable Members to address local priorities, support grassroots groups and quickly instigate changes in response to local opinion.

The budget for the current financial year 2013/14 is £63k plus a carry over from the previous financial year of £21k resulting in a total budget of £84k.

Each Member currently has £1000 per year to spend, at their discretion, on issues both within their local Ward or on borough wide initiatives that benefit local people. This can be on stand alone projects or match funding with other partners.

The Fund has proved to be a valuable tool for elected members. It encourages local community activity whilst promoting the leadership role of the local councillor.

The scheme is extremely popular and hundreds of projects are supported each year that contribute directly to the achievement of the Councils key priorities. Feedback received from groups supported within the last twelve months clearly emphasises that even small amounts of funding are valuable and can make a big difference at a time when funding options elsewhere have been vastly reduced.

As at January 2014 135 projects have been supported across the borough. During the last year a particular focus has been evident on tackling issues that have arisen as a result of the recent economic downturn:-

- Initiatives that provide help for disadvantaged families. e.g support for food banks, breaks for low income families.
- Sustaining work carried out by local charities and voluntary groups e.g confidence building activities for young people, clean up/environmental improvement days.
- Support for groups wishing to manage/provide local facilities where they are best places to do this e.g bowling green facilities, local advice services.

A full report on the impact of Community Leadership Fund activities is provided to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion during the course of the new financial year.

### **7.2 The Carry over Facility**

The principle of the carry over facility was approved by Cabinet during 2007 and has operated each year since.

Members have indicated that it is used in the main for specific projects that are due to begin in the next financial year or as a contingency fund for issues may occur within their ward as the year progresses that may require a quick response

It has proved to be a popular option. At the end of the financial year 2012/13 92% of Members chose to carry forward monies, the majority between £200-£300.

At the end of the last financial year the following criteria for carry forward was applied:-

- That any underspends above £750 at year-end be removed (unless the monies had been approved during the 2012/13 financial year but not spent by year-end).
- Any underspends below £750 at year-end would be approved to be carried forward into the new financial year.
- That any underspend amounts lost from individual Elected Member allocations be recovered into a One Town One Community small grants panel that organisations could submit bids towards

## 8. Finance

Members currently have an allowance of £1000 per year equal to a total budget pot of £63000 plus any carry forward from the previous financial year. The budget is managed and administered by the Neighbourhoods Partnerships team within the Housing and Neighbourhoods service.

The total committed for the current financial year 2013/14 as at the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2014 is £47k.

During the previous financial year 2013/13 in excess of 22k was spent during February and March. Based on this information it is therefore likely that 16-18k will be the approximate amount requested for carry forward into the next financial year.

Please see **Appendix 1** for the current position of expenditure by each councillor.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

Feedback from Members suggests they are receiving an increasing number of requests for assistance from the Fund at a time when national, regional and local funding to many projects and groups is being reduced or withdrawn.

Any reduction in funding will potentially have a negative impact on the community leadership role of individual ward councillors and their advocacy of the value of local democracy and active citizenship.

Feedback from projects clearly demonstrates that even small amounts of funding are valuable and can have a large impact.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Community Leadership Fund is a key component in promoting the role of the local councillor and contributes to encouraging sustained community based activity across all areas of Rotherham.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

1. Report to Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion June 2013
2. Community Leadership Fund Expenditure 2013/14
3. Press Release October 2013 "Community Leadership, Rotherham Style"

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<b>Ward</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Left to Spend</b>
Hellaby	Donaldson	£1750
Sitwell	Mannion	£1618
Wath	Sangster	£1442
Sitwell	Gilding	£1351
Wath	Gosling	£1281
Rawmarsh	Hamilton	£1235
Hellaby	Astbury	£1230
Holderness	Robinson	£1199
Wickersley	Hoddinott	£1104
Anston	Burton	£974
Wath	Atkin	£910
Wickersley	Read	£900
Hellaby	Andrews	£890
Anston and Woodsetts	Jepson	£866
Swinton	License	£855
Wales	Watson	£853
Rother Vale	R Russell	£852
Ellis	Wickersley	£843
Wyatt	Swinton	£842
Holderness	Smith	£828
Rother Vale	Lelliott	£802
Sitwell	Middleton	£791
Rushforth	Maltby	£771
Silverwood	Stone	£768
Brinsworth	Ahmed	£739
Maltby	Beaumont	£733
Holderness	Pitchley	£701
Rother Vale	Swift	£668
Silverwood	P Russell	£640
Swinton	Doyle	£632
Boston Castle	Mcneeley	£631
Silverwood	A Russell	£546
Hooper	Steele	£582
Brinsworth	Roddison	£464
Keppel	Clark	£396
Dinnington	Tweed	£395
Valley	Pickering	£381
Keppel	Kaye	£370
Maltby	Godfrey	£379
Valley	Lakin	£376
Hooper	Roche	£326
Anston and Woodsetts	Dalton	£302
Keppel	Barron	£302
Whelbourn	Rawmarsh	£300
Rotherham East	Ali	£279
Wales	Beck	£231
Boston Castle	Hussain	£193
Valley	Currie	£181
Wales	Whysall	£170
Hamilton	Hooper	£168
Boston Castle	Wootton	£150
Rotherham East	Wallis	£130
Rotherham East	Dodson	£129
Wingfield	Johnston	£119
Rotherham West	Sims	£100
Rawmarsh	Vines	£36
Brinsworth	Buckley	£35
Dinnington	Havenhand	£0
Rotherham West	Akhtar	£0
Rotherham West	Foden	£0
Dinnington	Falvey	£0
Wingfield	Goultly	£0
Wingfield	Sharman	£0