

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 16 December 2024

Report Title

Community Recovery Fund Allocation

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In late July and early August 2024, a series of public disorder events took place across the country. This included significant violence and vandalism taking place at the Holiday Inn Express, at Manvers on the 4 August.

Following on from these events, working with partners and stakeholders, the Council produced an initial recovery plan. Complimenting this activity in directly areas affected across the country, the Government announced the formation of the £15 million Community Recovery Fund (CRF). Through this fund, Rotherham was allocated £600,000 to be spent by the end of 2024/25 to support those communities impacted by the public disorder that took place. This paper sets out the proposed indicative programme and allocations for this funding in the borough.

Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Approve the indicative programme and provisional allocations of the Community Recovery Fund Grant of £600,000 as follows:
 - a. £62,975 to cover the costs incurred by the Council in responding to the events on the 4 August.

- b. £15,000 towards the delivery of a restorative justice project.
 - c. £10,000 to provide resources to support Manvers Community Recovery.
 - d. £10,000 to provide a community cohesion workforce development programme.
 - e. £180,000 to establish a community cohesion 'Rotherham Together' fund.
 - f. £57,000 to appoint a strategic cohesion co-ordinator for the borough.
 - g. £25,831 to put in place lived experience educators.
 - h. £30,000 to provide a community events programme.
 - i. £62,358 to provide activities for children and young people.
 - j. £25,800 for Together for Tomorrow, providing educational initiatives to support schools.
 - k. £30,000 to deliver a series of Challenge events aimed at uniting young people from diverse backgrounds through positive activities.
 - l. £45,000 to improve the safety of town centre events by investing in hostile vehicle mitigation.
 - m. £20,000 to invest in improving street lighting through a pilot initiative.
 - n. £10,000 to develop a system for recruiting, facilitating and mobilising volunteers to respond to crisis situations and contribute to public events.
2. To enter into supplementary provisions to the Infrastructure Support Services 2024 – 2027 Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the provision of the relevant elements set out in recommendation 1.
3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to determine revised and final allocations for the Community Recovery Fund Grant.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Community Recovery Fund Indicative Programme and Provisional Allocations
- Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

N/A

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Community Recovery Fund Allocation

1. Background

- 1.1 In late July and early August 2024, a series of public disorder events took place across the country. This included significant violence and vandalism taking place at the Holiday Inn Express, at Manvers on the 4th August.
- 1.2 Following on from these events, working with partners and stakeholders, the Council produced an initial recovery plan to support residents and communities that were impacted across the borough and enhance cohesion was developed. This had a range of priorities which included:
- Borough-wide actions;
 - Manvers-focused actions;
 - Communities and groups of interest;
 - Children and young people;
 - Staff engagement and development;
 - External communications; and
 - Enabling activities.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 In September Government announced the formation of the £15 million Community Recovery Fund (CRF). Designed to support those communities impacted by the public disorder that took place, this has been allocated to 20 local authorities that were significantly affected. Eligible councils were provided with a flat rate of £600,000, split 85% on revenue and 15% capital, to be spent before the end of financial year 2024-25. The remaining funds, up to £3 million, will be made available to Sefton Council, in recognition of the exceptional circumstances faced and to support with the delivery of their recovery plan, subject to business case.
- 2.2 Rotherham Council is one of the authorities to have been allocated £600,000 from the CRF. Eligible expenditure for the use of this fund includes:
- Immediate action to safeguard life or property.
 - To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
 - To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.
 - To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.
- 2.3 Following the release of national guidance for the CRF, the priorities from the Council's initial action plan have been integrated into four key focus areas for Rotherham's funding allocation:
- Projects or initiatives that seek to restore civic pride in the Manvers area.
 - Projects that support or promote intracommunity relations in priority areas.
 - Educational initiatives and youth outreach with children, young people and schools.
 - Community safety related projects and investments.

- 2.4 The table at Appendix 1 summarises the indicative programme and provisional allocations that will be undertaken under each of these four focus areas. It is anticipated that this may evolve over time as further dialogue is held with partner organisations especially those in the voluntary sector. However, all activity will be co-ordinated under the above four key focus areas.
- 2.5 The indicative programme will be delivered by a range of organisations including direct delivery by Rotherham Council services, direct delivery by the voluntary sector, and a grants budget which will allow for further solutions to be co-created and co-designed with community groups and prioritised as part of an overall coordinated approach. This may also include commissioning of projects through the grants budget to address any gaps or emerging issues. A voluntary sector managed grants budget will provide further flexibility within the government guidelines to deliver a programme of activities that can adapt to changing needs and to extend the delivery phase through to March 2026.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Options were assessed to meet the criteria of the grant funding stream, aligned with the other actions being taken by the Council and partners to support residents and cohesion. In particular, the need for spend to be delivered by the end of the financial year has been an important consideration. All the different strands are eligible spend under the CRF grant guidance.
- 3.2 It should be noted that the proposed uses of the borough's allocation include an amount of £62,975 to cover the costs incurred by the Council in responding to the events of the 4th August. This incorporates staff time, repair work and the cost of improving the future security of the area.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Officers in relevant Council services along with VCS partners have been engaged in developing the approach to the use of this funding allocation.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Arrangements are being put in place to implement the indicative programme and proposals as soon as possible.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The allocation is expected to be in the region of £600,000 although the precise amount isn't yet known and the programme will be adjusted if necessary.
- 6.2 The proposed use will cover costs already incurred as well as new spending and all options have been assessed to ensure they meet the grant criteria. There is also a required split between capital and revenue expenditure which

the proposal addresses and all the funding must be spent by the end of the financial year.

- 6.3 There are no specific procurement implications, but should any procurement be required, it will be carried out in accordance with relevant laws and Council procedures.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The use of the grant monies for the purposes set out in this report is consistent with the terms of the Grant. These terms will need to be complied with. Other than compliance with the Grant Terms there are no legal implications.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications within this report. If any implications arise, then Council policies and processes will be followed.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 The recommended indicative programme and provisional allocations provides for additional activities for children and young people, a community events programme, a series of challenge events and an educational initiative.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 The allocation of funds will have a positive impact on equalities and will be targeted towards the communities directly affected by the riots, including those with protected characteristics. The allocation will also help to bring communities together to increase cohesion across the borough and measures to improve community safety.
- 10.2 An Equality Screening has been produced and is attached at Appendix 2. Equalities data will be collected as part of administering the programme of support.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no implications for CO2 emissions of climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Partner organisation will continue to be involved in the implementation and subsequent delivery of this programme. This includes a number of key projects such as the community cohesion fund.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Risk is primarily centred around achieving, whilst not exceeding spend of the grant. The indicative programme and proposed allocations are in accordance with the grant conditions. Given the need to spend the grant funding by the end of March 2025, the recommendations delegate authority to the

Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to determine revised and final allocations for the CRF Grant. This includes provision for other eligible actions within the use of CRF.

14. Accountable Officers

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	02/12/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	02/12/24
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	02/12/24

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