

**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 19 MARCH 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY FUND PROGRAMME – ONE YEAR ON</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>RICHARD SIMPSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES</b> <b>SARAH IRELAND DIRECTOR OF COMMISSIONING &amp; IMPROVEMENT</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR HAMIDA ALI</b> <b>CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, SAFETY &amp; JUSTICE</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

**CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**

The Council’s Community Fund programme 2016-19 provides an update on the progress made during the first year of delivery.

The Community Fund has clear outcomes that are aligned with the recommendations made by the Opportunity and Fairness Commission as well as the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan. The Community Fund is a three year outcome focused programme that builds on the assets of the voluntary and community sector, promoting enterprise, volunteering, and social value. Overall, it supports the Council ambitions to reduce inequality and promote fairness for all communities.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The Community Fund is a discretionary grants programme with a budget commitment of nearly £6 million over a three year period from October 2016-September 2019.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

**1. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the progress on the annual milestone outlined in the attached annual impact report (appendix 1) due to be published in March.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the Community Fund programme delivery of year one. The Community fund programme principles sets our overall strategic direction to focus on outcomes and the attached report provides a summary of the key achievements, outcomes and impact to date through a series of case studies and service user testimonials.

- 2.2 In September 2016 the Cabinet approved the Community Fund programme 2016-2019 provided grants awards totalling nearly 6m. This demonstrates a clear and strong commitment to the Voluntary, Community and Social enterprise, (VCSE) sector.
- 2.3 Croydon's Voluntary and Community Sector has a strong history of innovation and enterprise, providing imaginative, community based solutions. This report summarises the commissioning approach and showcases key achievements during the past year displaying the innovation, life-improving outcomes and impacts that we aim to deliver through this investment.

### 3. **DETAIL**

#### 3.1 **Background**

- 3.1 During 2015 the Council commissioned the Opportunity and Fairness Commission to recommend ways to reduce inequality. This was noted as one of the widest conversations with the community of any London Borough. The findings from the Commission reported to Cabinet in January 2016 have influenced Community Fund outcome framework and key principles.

### 4. **REPORT FOCUS**

- 4.1 The report has been set in thematic headings under following:

- Vibrant, responsible and connected communities
- A connected borough where no one is isolated
- Supporting residents to better times
- Leaving no child behind
- Homes for All

Overall there has been good progress across the past year with some vital a wide- reaching work. The report attempts to illustrate the various outcomes and achievements to date.

- 4.2 **Vibrant, responsible and connected communities** features infrastructure services and capacity building organisations, Croydon Advice services and Purley Cross Information Centre. These organisations are providing the much needed support to nurture the positive environment which people are willing to do to make their locality a better place to live. To drive fairness for all communities, people and place. Promoting Community Champions – encouraging people to volunteer in their own communities; volunteering schemes to promote community safety.
- 4.3 **A connected borough where no one is isolated-** Being a Carer is one of the major risks of social isolation. This theme features a good range of Carers services, statutory assessments and respite which are delivered by Help for Carers, Carers Support Partnership and Horizon Care are delivering a range of outcomes to reduce social isolation and loneliness and providing a supportive network for carers that enables them to sustain relationships whilst continuing their caring role.

#### 4.4 **Supporting residents towards better times**

The life chances, life experiences, incomes and wealth of residents vary markedly across the borough. Child poverty is still a significant issue and is concentrated in certain parts of the borough. The recent growth of food banks is a reflection of the growing needs of the poorest and most marginalised people in our community. Creating employment opportunities, access to affordable childcare, better work experience and job opportunities for young people, support for long term sick and disabled people to return to work and access to good quality advice are key to reducing the inequality of wealth and income across the borough. In this theme there is a good range of programmes, Community Café, delivered by the Fieldway Family Centre, The Natural Health Services Consortium, Active Minds and Empowering Mothers that are supporting families to be healthy and resilient and able to maximise their life chances and independence.

#### 4.5 **Leaving no child behind**

This theme is focused on developing a constructed children and young people's offer, creating an environment so that young people can be confident and resilient. Children and young people are more likely to go on to be self-sufficient and lead fulfilling lives without the constant need for support from public services and the voluntary sector. The Voluntary and Community sector has a role to play in complementary in-school activities and out of school provision as well as activities for young people who have left school. Local Strategic Partnership focus is on young people and the range of activity under this theme supports the community safety partnerships (Safer Croydon Board) in its bid to tackle serious youth violence.

#### 4.6 **Finding homes for all** – in this theme we have Crisis, the Law Centre – Legal action for Communities and Community mediation supporting residents to prevent homelessness. They provide advice and support in housing, welfare, mental and physical health support needs. Preventing homelessness, providing advice and information to those people in housing need and at risk of homelessness, and engaging with and supporting people sleeping rough with a view to helping them “move off” the streets all form part of the overall strategic approach to tackling homelessness.

### 5. **Contract management**

The contract management of the Community Fund represents a different approach for the Council with an enhanced focused on delivering outcomes and creating and tangible improvements for some of the borough's most vulnerable communities.

#### 5.1 In order to support and enable this change the Council has developed a proportionate and flexible contract management framework, this has been an iterative process. It has been widely acknowledged that this will be the case during the development stage. The programme consists of 37 contracts with a diverse range of provision in contract value, size, scale, and scope therefore a one-size fits all approach will not work, rather a bespoke level of the right check and balances has been created which will reviewed annually. Following consultation with stakeholders a set of outcomes measures and quality assurance has been set with on-going discussions around the delivery of improved outcomes taking a proportionate and risk-based approach.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Feedback from key stakeholders on the delivery of the programme and the report will be collated through various provider and service user engagement and forums.

## **7 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations**

The total three year community budget is £6m, with the first year's funding of £2m having been distributed to a wide range of Community Groups across the borough, and funding for future years agreed. Further details of the groups who have received these fund are contained in appendix 1 to this report.

Funding is distributed based on applications and outcomes and it expected that this funding will generate significant benefits for the residents of Croydon, with outcome and benefits measured and reported periodically.

### **2 Risks**

There is the a risk that funding is miss used and this is mitigated against by strong and close working relationships between the Council and fund recipients.

### **3 Future savings/efficiencies**

It is anticipated that investment in this fund and community groups will provide future benefits for Croydon, both financial and non-financial

(Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director Finance, Investment and Risk)

## **8 COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

- 8.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no additional legal considerations arising from the recommendations within this report.

Approved by: Jacqueline Harris-Baker, Director of Law and Monitoring Officer

## **9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 9.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications for LBC staff arising from this report.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

**10. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

10.1 The update report shows that the activities being delivered through the Community Fund are already showing a positive equalities impact on the residents of Croydon’.

**11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

11.1 None

**12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

12.1 None

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sarah Ireland, Director of Commissioning and Improvement, x62070

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:** Appendix 1 – Community Fund Progress Report 2017/18

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None