

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS TO THE COVID-19 PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL RECOVERY FUND AND THE COMMUNITY HUB FOOD PLAN FUND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for applications for funding over £5k from the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund or the Community Hub Food Plan Fund.
2. To update Committee for oversight purposes of applications for funding for £5k or less from the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery or the Community Hub Food Plan Fund.
3. To seek approval for the increase of the budget for the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund by £0.5m for 2021/22.

**Information****The Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery and the Community Hub Food Funds**

4. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee approved £800k to support the development of the Community Hub Food Plan from the Contain Management Fund in January 2021. The £1m Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund was approved by Communities Committee in June 2021.
5. At the September 2021 Communities Committee, Members approved the governance and distribution principles for both funds, including a £50k small projects element to both.
6. A 2 or 3 stage approval process dependant on application value was approved. Firstly, all applications would be channelled through the appropriate Needs Assessment group or the Food Insecurity Network for consideration and endorsement by those with appropriate operational expertise.
7. Stage 2 agreed was that the LRF Humanitarian Assistance Group (HAG) (whilst in operation), would play a key role in giving either partnership endorsement or approval (depending on value) to ensure a whole systems approach to applying the funding that built on the partnership collaboration established during the pandemic.
8. For applications over £5k endorsed by the HAG, stage 3 agreed was that they would be brought to this Committee for formal approval. Those under £5k approved by the HAG could be immediately actioned, but with full details reported to Committee for appropriate Member oversight.

9. At its November & December meetings this Committee:

- Approved applications over £5k for both the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund and the Community Hub Food Fund.
- Reviewed for oversight purposes applications £5k or under that have been given endorsement by the HAG, for both the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund and the Community Hub Food Funds.

### **Applications to Consider**

10. The Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund has an agreed budget of £1,000,000 and at the November & December Communities Committee Meeting a total of £915,797 was approved. The appendixes to this report contain recommendations to spend the remaining £84,203 of that original fund amount.

11. The Community Food Hub Food Fund has an agreed budget of £800,000 and at the November and December Communities Committee a total of £454,963 was approved. The appendixes to this report contain recommendations to spend a further £227,405 of this fund. If the recommendations in this report are supported it will mean a total of £682,368 will have been allocated from this fund, leaving £117,632 to be allocated at a future meeting

12. **Appendix 1** to this report contains the details of applications over £5k that have been given endorsement by the HAG for both the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund - £77,298, and the Community Hub Food Fund - £213,261 This report seeks Committee approval of these applications.

13. **Appendix 2** to this report contains details of applications £5k or under that have been given endorsement by the HAG, Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund - £6,905, and for the Community Hub Food Fund - £14,144. This report invites the Committee to review these applications for oversight purposes.

### **Proposal to Increase the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund Budget**

14. Considering ongoing demand for funding from the Social Recovery Fund, it is proposed that a further £0.5m is put into the budget to be applied by the end of this financial year.

15. As reported at previous Committee meetings, there are a number of applications that have already been received that are likely to be suitable for funding. Further, if the proposal to increase the budget is accepted officers can work with partnership colleagues to bring more further proposals forward for timely consideration by Committee.

### **Other Options Considered**

16. Not increasing the budget for the Social Recovery Fund.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

17. The applications recommended for approval have been reviewed and endorsed by the relevant Needs Assessment Group or the Food Insecurity Network as meeting pandemic related needs presenting in our Communities. They have been further reviewed and

endorsed by the broader Community Support partnership through the HAG to ensure a joined-up system approach.

18. There is ongoing demand for funding that would meet the criteria for the Covid-19 Social Recovery Fund.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

20. **Appendix 1** seeks the approval for £77,298 of applications from the £1m Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund. Also, £213,261 of applications from the £800k Community Hub Food Fund.
21. **Appendix 2** details £6,905 of applications under £5,000 approved by the HAG from the Social Recovery Fund and £14,144 from the Community Hub Food Fund.
22. If all applications in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** are approved by Committee, combined with those previously approved Committee, the balance remaining in the original allocation for Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund is £0 and in the Community Hub Food Fund £117,632.
23. The report proposes a £0.5m increase the budget for 2021/22 for the Covid-19 Partnership Social Recovery Fund to take the total to £1.5m.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee

- 1) Approves those applications for funding recommended in Appendix 1; and
- 2) Reviews those applications that have received partnership approval set out in Appendix 2.
- 3) That the budget for the Covid-19 Social Recovery Fund is increased by £0.5m to £1.5m for 2021/22, and the Fund is reopened to temporarily accept new applications.
- 4) That the Community Hub Food Fund is closed to new applications and the remainder of this fund will be allocated at a future meeting of this Committee.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Place and Communities**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Mark Walker, Group Manager, Trading Standards and Communities, Tel: 0115 977 2173

## Constitutional Comments (KK 23/12/2021)

24. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Communities Committee.

## Financial Comments (RWK 17/01/2022)

25. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 20-23 of the Report.

26. A summary of funding commitments is shown in the table below.

	Budget 2021-22 £	Applications Approved >£5k £	Applications Approved <£5k £	Total Approved £	Balance £	Recommendation £	Revised Balance £
Community Hub Food Plan	-800,000	419,097	35,866	454,963	-345,037	227,405	-117,632
Covid-19 Social Recovery Fund	-1,000,000	907,747	8,050	915,797	-84,203	84,203	0

27. The additional funding of £500,000 proposed for the Social Recovery Fund will be funded from additional COVID-19 grant received by the County Council.

## Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None.

## Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.
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