

Leader Decision

26 March 2020

Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund 2019/20 – Tranche 4 Allocations

Recommendations

That the Leader:

- 1) Approve four projects to be funded from the Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund at a cost of £835,550 as follows:
 - Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Citizenship Course - £100,000;
 - Great School Libraries in Warwickshire - £77,050;
 - Understanding our Customers - £96,000 over two years, with review conditions attached to the second year of funding; and
 - Building a creative health social prescribing system £562,500.
- 2) Agree to transfer the funding approved from 2019/20 to 2020/21 to allow the projects to commence at the start of the year.

1. Background

- 1.1. Cabinet approved the operational and governance process for the Early Intervention, Prevention and Community Capacity Fund (EIPCCF) at its meeting on 11 April 2019. The agreed process involves evaluation, against criteria agreed by Cabinet, with the outcome from the evaluation and the applications considered by Corporate Board, who then recommend projects to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.2. Three tranches of bids, totalling £760,000, have been approved to date. A fourth tranche of bids have been submitted and have been through the agreed governance process. The projects recommended for approval are set out in Section 2 of this report.

2. Executive Summary and Analysis

2.1. Six bids to the EIPCCF were received in Quarter 4 and have now been through the evaluation process. Following Corporate Board's consideration of the outcomes of the evaluation, four of the six bids are recommended for approval, with a total call on the Fund of £835,550. The following paragraphs provide a description of each bid recommended for approval, the funding proposed and any commentary supporting/caveating the proposal.

2.2 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) Citizenship Course - £100,000 (score 69%)

This bid requests funding for a pilot scheme to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in Nuneaton and Bedworth by providing a course to increase engagement in physical activity, boost confidence and raise aspirations. The course aims to help young people achieve and reduce risk behaviours, and ultimately help reduce the demand on social care, the police and other services.

The course will be targeted towards young people between the ages of 12-18 based on a referral process from local police, schools and other partners. Each participant would attend a 5-day course, with 10-12 young people on each course.

The cost of the pilot scheme is £100,000.

Outcomes from the scheme will be measured and assessed to consider whether the course is successful in turning lives around and to allow consideration of whether the benefits would support extending the scheme beyond the initial pilot period.

2.3 Great School Libraries in Warwickshire - £77,050 over 3 years (score 70.5%)

The purpose of this project is to provide support and resources to three schools in Nuneaton and Bedworth enabling those schools to raise levels of literacy and to inspire pupils to read more. A fourth school will act as mentor to work with them alongside a nominated school library support worker.

The pupils' reading fluency and comprehension levels will be measured at the outset of the project and again at the end of the academic year. It is expected that achievement will be raised beyond expected levels so that the attainment gap is narrowed.

The investment will be phased across three years. If the scheme delivers the benefits of raising literacy levels it is expected that schools will commit to

funding the scheme on an on-going basis. This will enable the schools to access ongoing stock replenishment and some advisory work as well as discounted training for staff (and pupil librarians).

The cost of the scheme is £77,050.

2.4 Understanding our Customers - Developing customer insight to inform decision making - £96,000 over two years (score 63%)

This project seeks to support the use of data to inform what we do by providing the organisation with enhanced customer insight. At present, there is no business intelligence capacity dedicated to understanding our customers and to generating insight to inform decisions.

The provision of additional capacity should allow the organisation to:

- Make it easy for customers to access our information and services so they have a positive experience, and
- Manage demand and reduce cost through innovative and effective service redesign.

The recommendation is to initially approve funding of £48,000 for one year. A review clause will then allow the pilot to establish whether the role is a valuable one which can provide additional business insights for the Council before the second year's funding is released.

2.5 Building a creative health social prescribing system bid - £562,500 over three years (score 52.5%)

This bid is focused on developing social prescribing in Warwickshire by securing funding for Voluntary Sector and Community (VSC) organisations to deliver creative and cultural activities across Warwickshire. It provides for a cohesive approach to arts activities as part of the wider social prescribing agenda and is consistent with the emerging JSNA.

Taking part in creative and cultural activities has been shown to have a range of benefits for physical and mental health, offering a fun and engaging way to improve individual and community health and wellbeing. This allocation would fund:

- A specialist project officer and creative health commissioner;
- Art and nature initiatives to improve engagement with the natural environment;
- A series of 6-week arts-on-referral schemes for adults;
- Singing for health for pulmonary rehabilitation;
- Reminiscence therapy for people living with dementia; and
- A licence to use "Happiness Pulse" platform to support evaluation of the

impact on wellbeing and social isolation.

The amount recommended for approval is £187,500 per annum (£562,500 over 3 years).

As the programme extends over three years there is a need to ensure transparency to both create a baseline and enable the benefits to be assessed for each aspect of the programme. This will allow metrics around the deliverables to be evaluated. This is important to ensuring the project is sustainable beyond the three-year period, as delivery of expected benefits will justify the projects being picked up as part of future commissioning work.

Further elements of the overall social prescribing programme relate to services to support children and families. These elements are:

- Co-production of arts initiatives for new parents and infants; and
- Weekly arts activities for CYP across the 5 RISE community partnerships.

These elements will be brought to the Leader in April for consideration, as part of the wider Children's Transformation Programme, as was agreed as part of the 2020/21 budget resolution.

2.6 Whilst four bids are being recommended for approval this quarter, the Panel did consider two other bids. The Leader is asked to be informed of bids that are not being recommended for support and this information is outlined below.

- Smoke free sites co-ordinator - £50,500

The project proposal was to employ a 'stop smoking' coordinator within the Public Health team for 12 months to implement smoke free premises across council sites and develop supporting materials and policies to support staff to quit smoking.

The proposal is not recommended for approval because it didn't fit the criteria for the EIPCCF. WCC buildings should already be compliant with legislation relating to smoke free workplaces and, if staff are not adhering to smoke free regulations already in place, then a reminder of the WCC rules and brand appearance should be circulated. In addition, there are already a number of partner agencies (pharmacies and GPs) who are able to help people stop smoking that staff should be signposted to in the first instance.

- Air Quality - £175,000

The project was looking to secure funds to deliver a targeted package of school and employer support, raising awareness of health impacts of air

pollution and highlighting alternative modes of travel to reduce congestion and transport-based emissions.

The proposal is not recommended for approval at this time as a DEFRA bid for funding for the activity has already been submitted and the outcome of this bid is not yet known. Instead it is proposed the bid is reconsidered as part of the priorities for the Climate Change Fund, if the DEFRA bid is unsuccessful.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. The EIPCCF initially consisted of a £2.0 million allocation made as part of the 2019/20 budget. If the Leader agrees to the recommendations in this paper, the financial position of the Fund will look as follows:

	£'000
Allocations Approved to date:	
• Enhanced Time-banking	125
• Good Gym	23
• Community pop-up hubs for the visually impaired	14
• Parents in Mind	74
• Development of a perinatal mental health Health Visitor cadre	200
• Directory of community assets and social prescribing services	100
• Community Health Champions	80
• Grapevine Engaging Communities project	46
• Bedworth Sports Club	98
Total Approved to Date	760
Schemes recommended for approval in Tranche 4:	
• WFRS Citizenship course	100
• Great School libraries in Warwickshire	77
• Understanding our customers	96
• Creating a healthy social prescribing system	563
Tranche 4 Total	836
Total Allocations	1,596
Total Budget	2,000
Remaining Funding	404

- 3.2. The EIPCCF is being superseded by the Sustaining Prevention Fund from April 2020. Any unallocated funding at the end of 2019/20 will be added to the Sustaining Prevention Fund. Criteria for the allocation of resources from this Fund are elsewhere on today's agenda.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1. There are no specific environmental implications as a result of the information and decisions outlined in the report.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1. None.

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