

Title of Report:	Monthly Update on Department for Communities (DfC) additional funding and Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 th March 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£0
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a monthly update on the additional funding received from the Department for Communities (DfC) to support the voluntary and community sector as it continues to recover and help citizens to get through the COVID-19 pandemic and on the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and Action Plan.

2.0 Background

The Department for Communities has made a series of additional funds available to Councils through the Community Support Programme in order to support efforts of the community and voluntary sector and help alleviate the social and economic impact of the pandemic. The Leisure & Development Committee requested that this item remain on the agenda for regular updating to the Committee.

3.0 Progress Report

- 298 grants totalling £636,823 have been awarded to date to community and voluntary organisations for support for people who are experiencing difficulties with access to food, fuel poverty and connectivity.
- Causeway Coast and Glens Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group is now well established with an agreed Terms of Reference and has met fortnightly with 9 meetings to date between Nov 20 – Feb 21.
- An engagement survey, focus groups and key stakeholder meetings have taken place with key stakeholders and wider community and voluntary sector organisations who are undertaking poverty related work.
- A final draft Anti-Poverty Action Plan has been prepared and will be brought to Leisure & development Committee when fully endorsed by Steering Group.
- Wraparound support service is in place – LCDI are leading on a consortium of advice organisations and food banks to deliver this service between Jan-Mar 21. The service is delivering an individually tailored wraparound support programme for people who have been adversely impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic or who aren't currently availing of services to address their immediate crisis needs as well as to help them back to a position of financial stability.
- An awareness raising campaign 'Where to Turn' is currently underway with weekly social media posts and press article. Information leaflets containing contacts of emergency support services have been developed and will be distributed through a variety of channels including community groups. Further promotions including bus shelter advertising are planned.

Project	DfC funding provided	Update
Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 1 (April 2020)	£80,700	50 grants of up to £2,000 awarded for activities that supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to food.• Those on low income and at risk due to financial stress.• Connectivity - to those living alone or isolated that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.

Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 2 (Sep 2020)	£126,227	47 grants of up to £3,000 awarded for activities similar to Tranche 1.
Covid 19 Access to Food	£63,113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding support of £20,000 provided to bolster infrastructure of established food banks. • Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group established with terms of reference agreed and has met fortnightly with 9 meetings to date between Nov 20 – Feb 21. • Engagement survey and focus group and key stakeholder meetings undertaken. • Final draft Anti-Poverty Action Plan completed. • Wraparound support service for people experiencing poverty to improve financial wellbeing has been procured – LCDI will lead a consortium of advice organisations and food banks to deliver this service between Jan-Mar 21. • Awareness raising campaign 'Where to Turn' underway with dedicated webpage, social media campaign and information leaflets being developed. • Other projects being developed within Anti-poverty Action Plan.
Covid 19 Financial Inclusion Partnership	£58,147	
Food and Essential Supplies Fund (Dec 2020)	£168,186	53 grants of up to £2,000 awarded for activities that provide food and other essentials prior to Christmas and the New Year and medium-term projects that support people in food poverty leading up to March 2021. Direct award of £60,000 to 4 established food banks to ensure sufficient stocks of food for Jan-Mar period.
Warm, Well and Connected Fund (Jan 2021)	£42,664	15 grants of up to £2,000 for activities that address fuel poverty, tackle loneliness and isolation or promote good mental health and well-being in eligible areas of deprivation (NR, AAR, SPOD). Opened 4 th January; rolling programme; still open for applications.
Volunteering Support Fund (Jan 2021)	£42,046	74 organisations received funding for volunteer expenses through a Volunteering small grant operated by the two local Volunteer Centres led by Causeway Volunteer Centre who are also providing other support based on a needs survey of groups.
Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 3 (Strand 5) (Jan21)	£187,737	51 grants of up to £4,000 awarded for activities similar to Tranche 1.