

**REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TO: SPECIAL BUDGET POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATES: 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

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## **COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS: LOCAL AUTHORITY FUND**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Policy and Resources Committee of the recent successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for funding from the Community Champions: Local Authority Fund and subsequent commencement of activities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Policy and Resources Committee notes the successful bid for funding and subsequent commencement of activities.

### **REASON**

To ensure that the Council is aware of this fund and subsequent commencement of activities. The fund is to support people shown to be most at risk from Coronavirus (COVID-19) including those from an ethnic minority background, disabled people and others to follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves and those around them.

### **ISSUE**

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Council was advised that it was eligible to receive funding from the MHCLG Community Champions scheme and was invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI). Subsequently an EoI was successfully submitted and the Council was awarded £90,458. The council has since signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MHCLG and will use the funding in the following way:-

- £65,458 to fund a Service Level Agreement (SLA), under which Building Bridges Pendle (BBP) will:-
  - Undertake behavioural Insight work with some of our deprived / BAME communities to inform responses to Covid-19 (funding of £15,000)

- Deliver a Community Engagement Project (funding of £50,458)
- £25,000 to fund the Council's own Communications team to undertake additional activities to support delivery of the MoU.

As per the MoU, the Fund Fund aims to support a range of interventions to build upon, increase or improve existing activities to work with residents who are most at risk of Covid-19 - helping to build trust and empower at-risk groups to protect themselves and their families. The broader aim is to reduce the impact of the virus on all communities, beyond just the target areas that we will work with through this scheme.

Funded projects are expected to:

- Build residents' confidence to integrate and engage more widely in their local communities and mix with people from different backgrounds.
- Adopt approaches to engagement that supports social connection to the local area and builds confidence to use local amenities and services.
- Provide practical solutions to overcome barriers, such as supporting those experiencing digital exclusion.
- Be targeted using the best available national and local sources of evidence of need.
- Exhibit good governance and the collection of robust evidence to enable measurement of progress in achieving the Funds aims.
- Deliver genuine value for money with robust programme management.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

There are no policy implications arising from this report.

### **Financial**

A grant of £90,458 will be paid by MHCLG to the Council. The Council has agreed an SLA with BBP for £65,458 and will use £25,000 for Communications work.

### **Legal**

The Council has entered into a MoU with MHCLG and has agreed an SLA with BBP.

### **Risk Management**

Risk will be managed by monitoring performance in relation to the SLA.

### **Health and Safety:**

There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

### **Sustainability:**

Although the fund is time-limited, it aims to support a range of interventions to build upon, increase or improve existing activities to work with residents who are most at risk of Covid-19 - helping to build trust and empower at-risk groups to protect themselves and their families.

**Community Safety:**

The fund may help to contribute towards community safety as it is intended to support people shown to be most at risk from Coronavirus (COVID-19) including those from an ethnic minority background, disabled people and others to follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves and those around them.

**Equality and Diversity:**

This is a fund to support people shown to be most at risk from Coronavirus (COVID-19) including those from an ethnic minority background, disabled people and others to follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves and those around them. Thus the fund will positively support some people within specific 'protected characteristic' groups.

**APPENDICES –**

none