

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC22/027

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| Committee:- | Finance and Governance Committee |
| Date:- | 20 th July 2022 |
| Author:- | Martin Hammond, Clerk |
| Report Title:- | Community Resilience Fund |
| Wards Affected:- | All |

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the uses of the community resilience fund.

2. Recommendations

That

- a) the criteria as set out in section 4 be approved
- b) A report be submitted to the next meeting on potential qualifying projects

3. Information

3.1. The Council established a community resilience fund as part of its 2022/23 budget in the sum of £7400. The fund was intended to enable the Council to support or initiate projects which

- Supported the Levelling up agenda
- Improved access to health and wellbeing projects
- Tackled community safety problems
- Helped vulnerable groups with social interaction and neighbour support
- Enabled the community to embrace more sustainable habits

3.2. The Levelling up agenda is being actively developed by NNC, but as yet no obvious projects have emerged which the Town Council could support. Nevertheless, there have been other ideas which have emerged from day to day engagement with local organisations, and, to help steer how such opportunities can be responded to during the rest of this year, it is

proposed to adopt a broad set of priorities and criteria for use of the fund. – set out in section 4.

4. Proposed Criteria

4.1 It will be important to avoid overlaps with the other funds the Council is administering – eg the community infrastructure fund, the small grants pot and the lottery fund, and to avoid confusion with the ward initiatives fund. The following criteria are therefore proposed for expenditure under the fund:-

- The money can be used to
 - Help social support networks be developed or sustained, where delivered through community groups, voluntary organisations, religious institutions or charities
 - Help people take more exercise and eat more healthily – especially children and older people
 - Help people improve their mental health and general wellbeing through activities and social networks.
 - Support networks, like neighbourhood watch schemes, which improve the ability of neighbourhoods to resist crime
 - Supports measures which help people develop habits which consume fewer natural resources and saves them money
 - Communicate and publicise services listed above.
- The fund will not be available for capital expenditure (e.g to buy single items costing more than £250)
- Funding in any one year for any project does not imply that it will be repeated in subsequent years.

4.2. Rather than promote this fund to the wider community- at which point it becomes another grants scheme – it is suggested that it be held as a resource, to respond to approaches made to the Town Council by groups or other agencies looking for support and that each proposal is brought to this committee for approval. There are already several potential schemes which may fit the criteria above and these can be brought to the next meeting.

5. Consultation and Engagement

The Council has been engaging with the NNC Task and Finish Group on Levelling up as it considers local issues and possible solutions

The Council has been approached to support various activities which would meet some of the criteria above, and there are other activities locally which may benefit from additional support.

6. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

There is £7400 available in the budget

7. Policy Implications

The Corporate plan says:-

The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, particularly in the light of the impacts of covid 19, through its own services and in partnership with others.

The Council is exploring ways of encouraging and supporting sustainable habits and opportunities for local people.

Background Papers

None

