

Forward Plan reference number: Not applicable

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| Report title: Local Community Fund: Third round of funding proposals | |
| Report to: Councillor Louise McKinlay – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy | |
| Report author: Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance | |
| Date: 7 December 2023 | For: Decision |
| Enquiries to: Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance; Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency, Emma Hunter, Senior Democratic Services Officer – locality.fund@essex.gov.uk | |
| County Divisions affected: County Divisions affected: Rayleigh North, Rayleigh South, Rochford North, Rochford South, Rochford West, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South, Chigwell and Loughton Broadway, Epping and Theydon Bois, Loughton Central, North Weald and Nazeing, Ongar and Rural, Waltham Abbey, Heybridge and Tollesbury, Maldon, Southminster. | |

1. Everyone's Essex

1.1 The approval of these applications, received in response to the Councils' Local Community Fund (LCF), will directly support projects which are targeted at the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

1.2 Levelling up and working with and empowering communities are key components of Everyone's Essex with specific commitments across all four of our strategic aims and as key operating principles for how we will work as an organisation.

1.3 This decision sets out the nominations received before the 21 November 2023 where we have received full information from nominated groups. Further decisions will be taken as more proposals are received. The final deadline for proposals is 2 February 2024.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Agree to make awards from the Local Community Fund (LCF) as set out in Appendix 1.

2.2 Agree that no payments may be made with respect to a particular award unless the recipient agrees to the terms and conditions of the award and provides sufficient evidence of the expenditure.

3. Background and Proposal

- 3.1 Following a decision made in May 2023 the Council established a £300,000 fund called the Local Community Fund. The Council has established criteria for making awards under this Fund.
- 3.2 The Local Community Fund operates as twelve separate funds each covering the area of a district council. The fund for each district will be £4,000 for each county councillor in that district. The fund must be spent on one of the following three areas:
- Levelling Up
 - Tackling Climate Change
 - Youth Services
- 3.3 The process for considering proposals is that:
- Members representing electoral divisions in the relevant district consider how best to spend the money and submit an application to the fund.
 - The proposal is considered by officers in the relevant service.
 - The proposed recipients are asked to provide information about the project.
 - The Cabinet Member decides on an award via this report.
- 3.4 Under this process we are now asking the Cabinet Member to consider the recommendations made by members and make a decision on the applications set out in the appendix to this report.
- 3.5 These proposals in this decision would see a total of **£40,308** being approved, meaning that a cumulative total of **£60,812** out of the **£300,000** fund committed to date, with the deadline for nominations being early February 2024.

4 Links to our Strategic Ambitions

- 4.1 This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision:
- Strengthen communities through participation
 - Unite behind a sense of identity
- 4.2 This report links to the following strategic priorities of 'Everyone's Essex'
- Health, wellbeing and independence for all ages
 - A good place for children and families to grow.

5 Options

Accept the recommendations from members as set out in appendix 1.

- 5.1 This option is recommended, because the awards have been nominated by members in line with the scheme. The Cabinet Member is required to be happy with the decision and is free to accept or reject any recommendation as they think fit.

Do not make some or all of the awards

- 5.2 The Council could decide not to make any awards in this round. This would have a negative impact on the projects and they are unlikely to go ahead.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 A cabinet member action was agreed in May 2023 to approve transfer of £200,000 from the Youth Services policy line to the Locality Fund policy line, both within Communities, Partnerships and Performance portfolio, for 2023/24 only. In addition, the cabinet member action agreed the draw down of £450,000 from the Ambition reserve. This funding is split into two parts: £350,000 is for the Locality Fund and £300,000 is for the Local Community Fund.
- 6.2 Members make recommendations for their district areas on how the money is to be spend on projects.
- 6.3 The fund opened for nominations on 15 May 2023 and proposals will not be accepted after 2 February 2024.
- 6.4 The value applications recommended for approval to date are as follows:

| Local Community Fund | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Awards Recommended by District | Previously approved | Approval now sought | Total award |
| Brentwood | £14,504 | £0 | £14,504 |
| Uttlesford | £6,000 | £0 | £6,000 |
| Rochford | £0 | £20,000 | £20,000 |
| Epping Forest | £0 | £8,800 | £8,800 |
| Maldon | £0 | £11,508 | £11,508 |
| Total Awards Recommended | £20,504 | £40,308 | £60,812 |

Remaining balance yet to be awarded in 2023/24 financial year: £239,188

7. Legal implications

7.1 All nominations made by members have been checked against the criteria, before recommendations are brought to the Cabinet Member for approval and no payments will be made without sufficient evidence and information regarding expenditure.

8. Equality and Diversity Considerations

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 8.3 The Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment (ECIA) indicates that the proposal in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

9. List of Appendices

- 1.1. Appendix 1 - A summary of applications for approval.
- 1.2. Appendix 2 – ECIA

10. List of Background papers

- 10.1 [Local Community Funds and Locality Funds Arrangements 2023/24](#)

| I make the following decision: | Date |
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| LCF12 – approve LCF20 – approve LCF22 – approve LCF23 – approve LCF24 – approve LCF25 – approve LCF26 – approve | 28/12/2023 |

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| LCF27 – approve Councillor Louise McKinlay – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Communities and Business Engagement | |
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In consultation with:

| Role | Date |
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| Michael Neumann on behalf of Nicole Wood, Executive Director, Corporate Services (S151 Officer) | 19 December 2023 |
| Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer) | 7 December 2023 |

Appendix 1 - Applications for approval.

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| Application | LCF12 |
| Date Nomination Received | 21/08/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Rochford Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £20,000 |
| Name/Group | Supporting Carers and Families Together (SCAFT) |
| Type of organisation | Charity |
| Location | Rochford |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | Provision of One2One service for young carers with costs to include the delivery staffing and staff travel between school sites. |
| Community Benefit | The One2One scheme provides individual support to students and is primarily aimed at those whose caring responsibilities at home make accessing our evening groups difficult or who need additional support. The programme provides a safe space for young carers to express themselves and their anxieties, concerns and frustrations in relation to their caring role, and to seek support and advice. It also allows staff to act as advocates on their behalf when conflicts arise between that caring role and their education, such as persistent lateness or absence, behavioural problems or difficulties engaging with learning. |

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| Application | LCF20 |
| Date Nomination Received | 17/10/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Epping Forest Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £8,800 |
| Name/Group | Epping Forest District Council on behalf of Epping Forest Youth Council |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Epping Forest |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | To educate 2,000 Epping Forest secondary school pupils on online safety and healthy relationships through the Broadcast Roadshow by Arc Theatre. EFDC/EFYC will be invoiced for the work carried out by the Arc Theatre company. |

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| | The cost will cover the theatre company's fee entirely, there are no other costs. |
| Community Benefit | <p>Broadcast will be delivered to the seven state schools and two private schools in the district, The target age is 11 – 13 years. The schools can decide if they want the training for year 7 or year 8 pupils, as they will know who will benefit most from the session. Each session is 60 minutes long. Arc theatre can deliver 3 sessions in each school over the period of a day.</p> <p>The theatre show covers themes such as how to report and block things online, PEGI ratings, trusting people online as well as providing resources to children on how to stay safe online.</p> |

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| Application | LCF22 |
| Date Nomination Received | 07/11/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Maldon Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £1000 |
| Name/Group | ECC Youth Service |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Maldon |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | Purchasing 'Check your Drink' test strips to give to young people to allow them to check if their drinks have been spiked with certain contaminants. These will be given to sixth form pupils at the secondary schools and other young people engaging with the Youth Service. |
| Community Benefit | These test for ketamine and GHB which are the main drugs used for spiking drinks. These give a visual indication which will protect young people, particularly ahead of the festive season. |

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| Application | LCF23 |
| Date Nomination Received | 07/11/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Maldon Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £1000 |
| Name/Group | ECC Youth Service |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Maldon |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |

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| Purpose of funding | High impact theatre presentation by Tc Box Productions. The event consists of play and interactive workshops that tackle discrimination, prejudice, and inequality. |
| Community Benefit | This is aimed at young people and challenges some key issues facing young people. |

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| Application | LCF24 |
| Date Nomination Received | 07/11/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Maldon Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £3,800 |
| Name/Group | ECC Youth Service |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Maldon |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | Skateboard events run by King Ramps. One in Maldon and one in Burnham. These consist of 3 x 15 minute demonstrations to young people. Prizes are given for competitions, judged by professionals. All safety equipment is provided. |
| Community Benefit | This provides an outdoor pastime that occupies young people. Skateboarding is very popular and these organised events help to engender community relationships and responsibility. |

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| Application | LCF25 |
| Date Nomination Received | 07/11/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Maldon Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £2,000 |
| Name/Group | ECC Youth Service |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Maldon |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | Purchasing a second set of equipment for a community gaming initiative which runs projects and activities for young people. This would allow them to expand into Burnham on Crouch. |
| Community Benefit | Gaming helps young people with team working and problem solving. It has the potential to build life skills, physical activity, social contact, confidence and wellbeing. |

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| Application | LCF26 |
| Date Nomination Received | 07/11/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Maldon Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £2,448 |
| Name/Group | ECC Youth Service |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Maldon |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | A county lines 'Drugs Bus' will be taken to two schools in the district to raise awareness & educate young people about gangs, knife crime, drugs etc. |
| Community Benefit | Drug culture, knife crime and county lines is a significant risk for young people and this initiative will help to educate young people about these issues. |

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| Application | LCF27 |
| Date Nomination Received | 07/11/2023 |
| Member Agreement | All Maldon Members are in agreement. |
| Amount | £1,260 |
| Name/Group | ECC Youth Service |
| Type of organisation | Local authority |
| Location | Maldon |
| Service Area | Youth Provision |
| Purpose of funding | This is to fund a performance called Shadows by N-Act at three schools in the district. It is a play about consent, manipulation and the courage to stand up and be counted. The play can be seen by all age groups and the content is adapted accordingly. |
| Community Benefit | This will be invaluable for young people to demonstrate the issues around unhealthy relationships, manipulation and coercion. It is an essential tool to assist in developing healthy relationships for our young people. |