

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 13 JULY 2017

INVESTING IN TELFORD AT 50

REPORT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR SHAUN DAVIES

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Council remains committed to the vision of Telford as the Place of Enterprise, Innovation and Partnership, and driving growth in the Borough is key to this vision. The Pride in Your Community Programme was established in 2014 to ensure investment was made in the Borough's infrastructure and within our local communities. The Pride programme comprises of a number of key strands including investment in the physical infrastructure in the Borough, investment in high streets and local centres and in the community. **In March 2017 Council agreed to invest a further £2m into the Pride in Your Community Programme.** This is made up of £1m of capital and £1m of revenue funding.
- 1.2 In 2018 we will commemorate Telford's 50th birthday, which is a significant milestone in the development of the town. It is proposed that the £2m community pride themed funding will be invested in creating a legacy for Telford that both celebrates the Borough's history and also helps to support the future growth of the Borough. It is proposed that the funding is divided into two themes, **£1m for a 'legacy' fund including £50,000 being made available to support community organisations to celebrate Telford at 50. The other £1m will be invested in projects that support the delivery of the Council's existing priorities, help to build resilient and strong communities and to reduce demand upon public sector services.** This fund will help Telford to achieve the aspirations of our communities as set out within the Council's priorities. Community consultation will be held during the summer of 2017 to seek views on what the focus of the legacy fund should be.
- 1.3 The Council is committed to continue to work with partners such as our Town and Parish Councils, Voluntary and Community Organisations and local communities to ensure that we achieve the best that we can for the residents of Telford. The Council continues to operate within a challenging financial climate and we will work with our partners to find new ways of delivering services. 'Being the Change' outlines the need for us to build community capacity to improve outcomes for our residents and to reduce the demand on public services. The Community Participation Team has a key role to play in supporting community capacity building in the Borough. We recognise that investment is required to build the capacity of organisations and our communities, therefore a capacity building fund of £695,000

was also agreed by Council in March 2017 as part of our 2016/17 to 2019/20 financial strategy. It is proposed that this fund will be used to invest in community capacity building, to support a number of key priorities for the Council such as volunteering, supporting the development of organisations that can contribute towards reducing the demand on Council services and deliver our priorities. This will be a flexible fund which will support the costs of DBS checks, training for groups such as voluntary youth groups and will enable the allocation of small grants to groups that are aiming to work in partnership with the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1.1 That Cabinet agree that the 'Telford Pride @ 50 Fund' of £2m is implemented as set out within this report, comprising of a £1m 'legacy fund' with consultation on the themes for the fund being carried out between July and September 2017.
- 2.1.2 That £50,000 of the 'legacy fund' is allocated to organisations to support the delivery of a programme of community led 50th Birthday celebrations.
- 2.2 That £1m of the 'Telford Pride @ 50 Fund' is used to support projects and schemes that deliver the Council's priorities, strengthen our communities and reduce demand on Council services.
- 2.3 That delegated authority is given to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to implement the 'Telford Pride @ 50 Fund', to allocate funding in line with the themes identified for the legacy fund and to support the delivery of Council priorities.
- 2.4 That Cabinet agrees that a Community Capacity Building Fund of £695,000 is implemented as outlined in this report, and that delegated authority for the allocation of this fund is given to the Community Participation Team Service Delivery Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member Customer Services, Tourism and Partnerships.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	This report supports the delivery of all of the Co-operative Council priority objectives
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The proposals have the potential to have a positive impact on the all residents within the Borough.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Community consultation on the 'legacy themes' and priorities for funding to commence July 2017 to September 2017. Process of 'expressions of interest' to commence in January 2018.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The Council's Service and Financial Planning Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20 includes £2m capital allocation for the Community Pride Fund, and £695,000 revenue allocation for the Community Capacity Building Fund.</p> <p>Finance will support the Service Delivery Team as funding allocations are determined and advise on assessments and their terms as appropriate.</p> <p>DR 14/06/17</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>The Council has a number of powers available which enables it to carry out the recommendations contained in this report.</p> <p>As any decision made by the Authority can be subject to challenge in respect of its reasonableness or lawfulness it will be necessary to ensure that a robust and transparent assessment procedure is developed. This will assist in avoiding a challenge of either the process or decisions made in considering any applications made.</p> <p>Although any grants awarded are unlikely to trigger State Aid issues due to being too low value or because of the nature of them not meeting the relevant criteria it is important the measures are put in place to avoid unlawful aid being granted.</p> <p>Ongoing legal advice will be provided in respect of the development of the scheme</p>

		and advice will also be provided in respect of individual projects, if needed. Legal Services can provide a template Grant Agreement to assist in streamlining the process. EH 23/6/17
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. Telford Pride @ 50 Fund

- 4.1 The Pride in Your Community Programme was established in 2014 in order to support the continued growth of the Borough. The programme comprised of a number of elements including improvements to the physical infrastructure and environment, the Community Pride Fund, Pride in Your High Street and Councillors' Pride Fund. Further funding for the Pride in Your Community Programme was agreed by Council in March 2017. The programme will include continued investment in the physical environment including improvements to the road network and repairs to structures such as bridges and retaining walls, and a further £2m has been allocated under the community pride theme. In 2018 Telford will celebrate its 50th birthday, this is a significant milestone in the on-going development of the town and it is proposed that this £2m funding is used to create a legacy for the Borough that both commemorates the past 50 years and also helps to meet our of vision of Telford as the Place of Enterprise, Innovation and Partnership.
- 4.2 The Council continues to operate within a challenging financial environment and our Service & Financial Planning Strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 identified that there will be a need for the Council to identify further savings. Having already achieved savings of around £96m, the Council remains committed to supporting those that are most vulnerable within our society. We know that by working with partners such as Town and Parish Councils and community organisations that we have been able to mitigate against the impact of the savings on some front line services such as libraries and community centres. In this current context it is important that we ensure that the £2m allocated for this element of the Pride programme is utilised to create a sustainable legacy for the Borough, supports the delivery of the Council's priorities and facilitates the development of strong and resilient communities.
- 4.3 It is therefore proposed that the £2m is used to establish the 'Telford Pride @ 50 Fund'. It is proposed that £1m will be allocated to establish a 'legacy fund' that can be used to invest in projects that both recognise Telford's history and support the future social and economic growth of the Borough. It is proposed to carry out community consultation between July and September to identify the community's

priorities for developing a legacy for Telford and Wrekin. Once the legacy themes have been identified, projects will be developed that support the delivery of these themes. The types of projects delivered will depend on the themes identified but could include investment in community buildings, heritage trails or local attractions. These projects may be delivered by the Council or by another local organisation, depending on the nature of the project. If more than one organisation could be deemed as suitable to deliver a project we will seek initial 'expressions of interest' from appropriate organisations. The Council would then work with the most appropriate organisation(s) to support the implementation of the project, the aim would be to facilitate organisations to work together on delivering the legacy themes chosen by the community. This would reduce some of the burden that has previously been experienced by organisations that have delivered projects via the Community Pride and Pride in Your High Street Funds and ensure a more streamlined process of project delivery. It is envisaged that expressions of interest would be sought from early 2018. At this stage it is not proposed to put financial limits on the size of projects, however, the aim will be to ensure that the legacy projects are spread across the Borough.

- 4.4 An important aspect of celebrating Telford's 50th birthday during 2018 will be the delivery of an events programme throughout the year. Some events will be led by the Council however, there is also an opportunity to further develop the community's skills and ownership of local events. It is therefore proposed that £50,000 will be available from the 'legacy fund' outlined above to support the delivery of community led celebrations. It is proposed that consultation workshops will be held across the Borough to develop the themes for the celebration events and to build the capacity of community groups to deliver their celebration events. This programme will be delivered between the Community Participation Team and the Creative Arts Team.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the remaining £1m of the 'Telford Pride @ 50 Fund' is allocated to schemes and projects that support the delivery of the Council's priorities, assist in strengthening our communities and reducing demand on Council services. The funding could be used to pump prime projects that are delivered by the Council or similar to the legacy fund, expressions of interest may be sought from other organisations that are able to deliver projects that help us to meet our aspirations for the Borough. It is envisaged that the process for identifying appropriate projects will commence within the Council during the summer. Information relating to previous consultation on community priorities, demand on Council services and feedback on the legacy priorities will be used to identify the key themes for allocation of this funding. An example of the type of project that may be developed through this element of the Telford Pride @ 50 Fund could be investment in supporting an organisation to provide a lunch club for older people. Funding could be used to install a catering kitchen in a community facility, or to purchase a vehicle to enable food delivery. Projects such as this would help to support delivery of the Council's priorities relating to health and wellbeing and supporting vulnerable adults.

5. Community Capacity Building Fund

- 5.1 As set out in our Service and Financial Planning Strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 the Council is keen to continue to work with our partners including Town and Parish Councils, and Voluntary and Community Organisations to mitigate against the impact

on our community of further Council savings. The Partnership Support Programme has seen a number of services including libraries and community centres transfer to other organisations and it is proposed to build upon the success of this programme. Once an organisation has agreed to take over the delivery of a service previously supported by the Council they are able to access a grant for a period of 3 years. However, some organisations have found it difficult to secure funding to develop their capacity to take the service on. Although we have a wide range of voluntary and community organisations across the Borough we recognise that some organisations require support if they are going to look at delivering new services or grow their existing activity. Therefore, £695,000 revenue reserves has been set aside to support the capacity building of organisations to enable them to develop new projects, expand existing activity or take over the delivery of a Council service.

- 5.2 It is proposed that the Capacity Building Fund is used in a number of ways. It will be used to support the delivery of Council priorities such as recruiting and supporting volunteers, funding 3rd party indemnity insurance where appropriate, to cover the costs of initial training for voluntary run youth groups or other training required by organisations that will be taking on the delivery of Council services. It is envisaged that the Community Participation Team may allocate small grants to organisations to build their capacity or to cover the early costs of project development. It is proposed that there would be 2 levels of grant available, up to £2,000 for initial start-up costs for a new group, and up to £10,000 for project development costs for projects that assist in delivery of Council savings. Funding will only be provided to organisations where there is a direct link to delivery of the Council's priorities and potential to support the delivery of our financial strategy. Consultation on the development of the fund has already taken place with a number of voluntary and community organisations, and it is proposed that grants will start to be allocated from September 2017.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

7. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cabinet 9 January 2014 'Everyday Telford – Pride in Your Community Programme' report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Report prepared by Rachael Jones, SDM: Community Participation Team, Tel: 01952 382135