

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead - Resources

Corporate Services Committee: 19 June 2019

Subject: Ending Loneliness Fund

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To provide Members with information as to how the Ending Loneliness Fund will be utilised and administered from 2019/20 to 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to:

- i) Agree the proposed approach to distribution of the funding; and
- ii) Note the administrative arrangements to be used to manage the fund.

3. Background

- 3.1** Council agreed, in setting the budget for 2019/20 to the creation of a fund of £10,000 in each of the financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22, as follows:

“£10,000 per annum fund (level to be reviewed annually) available to groups helping to tackle loneliness in our communities. Officers will bring a report to a future Corporate Services Committee as soon as practicable, recommending how this fund should be administered and spending monitored.”

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** It is proposed that the fund will be administered following the following principles:

- Available to any not for profit, properly constituted group providing activities or services targeted at ending loneliness;
- Applications can be for any spend that a group applies for provided the planned spend provides a benefit to those in need of friendship/companionship or suffering from loneliness. This may include running costs for groups where one of the purposes of the group is aligned to this qualifying requirement;
- Applications will only be accepted for single years worth of funding;
- Applications accepted at any time until the given year's fund is depleted; and.
- Corporate Services Committee to consider and approve/refuse applications until the fund is depleted.

- 4.2 It is proposed that the fund will be administered by the Council's Finance team which has experience of administering grant applications for Council Trust Funds, etc. utilising the application form appended to this report (Appendix 1).
- 4.3 The availability of the funding will be advertised on the Council's website and a press release provided to raise awareness of the fund. The West Dunbartonshire Council Community Voluntary Service (WDCVS) will also be advised of the funding availability as a means of directing applications from groups seeking funding assistance from WDCVS.
- 4.4 At the end of the period of the use of the funding application the applicants will require to provide confirmation and evidence that the funding has been spent in line with the application and information on numbers of people assisted.

5. Option Appraisal

- 5.1 No option appraisal was required for this report.

6. People Implications

- 6.1 There are no people implications.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 As noted at 3.1 above the Council has approved £10,000 per year of revenue funding from 2019/20 to 2021/22 to support this initiative.
- 7.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

8. Risk Analysis

- 8.1 There is potential reputational risk if the Council does not implement a robust process for the award of this funding. This risk will be mitigated through clearly establishing the application and award process described above and attached, together with a requirement for post-project reporting to the Council.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 9.1 This funding offers potential for all types of groups to apply for funding and may offer opportunities for under represented groups who may suffer more from loneliness and social isolation.

10. Environmental Sustainability

- 10.1 No assessment of environmental sustainability was required in relation to this report.

11. Consultation

- 11.1 Legal and Financial Officers have been consulted in preparing this report.

12. Strategic Assessment

- 12.1** The fund is expected to contribute to the Council's strategic priority of supporting individuals, families and carers to live independently and with dignity

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Date: 7 June 2019

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Appendix: Application form

Background Papers: Minute of Council – 27 March 2019

Wards Affected: All wards