

**COMMITTEE:** NORTH EAST AREA REF NO: NEAC/20/01  
**DATE:** 18 JUNE 2020  
**SUBJECT:** AREA COMMITTEE GRANTS AND  
FINANCIAL UPDATE  
**AUTHOR:** IAN BLOFIELD, HEAD OF HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

The North East Area Committee has been allocated £15,200 for 2020/21. With the unallocated budget from 2019/20 added to this, the total unallocated budget available to spend is £28,606.35.

The Coronavirus Outbreak has had serious impacts on communities in Ipswich and it is therefore proposed to advertise the availability of Area Committee Funding with a view to the September meeting of the Committee allocating some or all of the available funding to relevant projects.

To allow the September meeting of the Committee to consider the proposals it may be necessary to vary the Area Committee Funding Guidelines and change some of the current procedures. To allow any necessary changes to be made delegated authority to take all necessary steps to progress the scheme is sought. Full details of the proposed scheme will be brought to the July meeting of the Area Committee as part of the advertisement process and all applications will be considered by a meeting of the area committee before funding is awarded.

The meeting of this Area Committee, scheduled for 19 March 2020 but cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak, was due to consider funding applications for Ipswich Borough Council's Jumpers for Goalposts programme and the Pop-Up Library at Ransomes Pavilion. Further information about the impact of Coronavirus on these schemes is being sought and if appropriate they will be brought to either the July or September meeting of this Committee.

The Area Committee also has the option to devolve up to 10% of its annual budget to establish a 'Making a Difference' (MAD) Budget for small scale community initiatives; a 10% allocation would equate to £500 per ward for 2020/21 (£1,500). It is likely that such an allocation could be used to support community activity in the short term.

The Area Committee is also asked to set aside a reduced amount of £300 for the costs of publicity and potential venue hire later in the year. Whether this funding will be required will be clearer in September and if it is clear that not all or none of this funding will be used then it can be returned to the main committee budget.

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

Appendix 1 – North East Area Committee Budget – Financial Statement

**Recommendations:**

**The Committee is asked:**

- (a) To note the financial statement in Appendix 1;**
- (b) To delegate authority to the Head of Housing and Community Services, in consultation with the Head of Governance, to take all necessary steps to:**
  - **advertise the availability of Area Committee Grants to support communities in recovering from the Coronavirus outbreak;**
  - **enable the consideration of applications in relation to this scheme at the September meeting of this Area Committee;**
- (c) To determine the allocation of funding to establish a Making A Difference (MAD) budget for 2020/21;**
- (d) To allocate £300 from the North East Area Committee budget for costs associated with advertising and potential venue hire for the 2020/21.**

**Reasons:**

- (a) To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee;**
- (b) To enable Area Committee funding to be used to support communities in recovering from the Coronavirus Pandemic;**
- (c) To allow the Area Committee to devolve up to 10% of its annual budget to support small scale community initiatives;**
- (d) To facilitate the good running of the Area Committee.**