

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of Executive Member for Localism, Community and Environmental Services

To: CABINET - 26 JULY 2011

(Author: Rob Walker, Assistant Director)

Subject: HEALTHY TOWN: THETFORD

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to get Cabinet approval to release funding totalling £32,000 from the Area Based Grant Settlement 2008-2011 to NHS Norfolk for the META scheme as part of the Healthy Town: Thetford project.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approve funding of £32,000 from the Area Based Grant Settlement 2008-2011 to NHS Norfolk for the META scheme [part of the Healthy Town: Thetford project].

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Area Based Grant (ABG) is a general grant allocated directly to local authorities as additional revenue funding to areas. It is allocated according to specific policy criteria (e.g. community cohesion) rather than general formulae. Local authorities are free to use all of this non-ringfenced funding as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas.
- 1.1.2 Breckland's allocation for the period 2008-11 was £624,338 and was largely (but not exclusively) based upon the 'community cohesion' best value performance indicator findings as per the 2006/07 General Best Value User Survey. In 2006/2007, the district had the 13th lowest score nationally for the percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (National Indicator 1).
- 1.1.3 £540,000 was granted to Breckland as a result of the best value performance indicator findings. The remaining £84,338 was granted to reflect new burdens on local planning authorities arising from the expectations in the Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change and additional planning policy issues.
- 1.1.4 At Cabinet on the 15 September 2009 and Full Council on 1 October 2009 funding was allocated to the Community Liaison Officer post (£80,000), Wayland Community Radio (£24,000) and Participatory Budgeting (£10,000). This was in addition to funding previously committed to Pride in Breckland (£200,000), BRECKFEST (£49,215.69) and £84,338 for Planning Policy work as detailed above.
- 1.1.5 £32,000 from the Area Based Grant settlement was ringfenced for spend on the META scheme (2010/11) as part of the Thetford: Healthy Town project.

At Full Council on the 1 October 2009 Cabinet was given delegated authority to approve this funding.

- 1.1.6 Thetford is the only Healthy Town in the Eastern region an one of only nine such towns nationally. Breckland Council and NHS Norfolk secured £900,000 from the Department of Health for this project and to fund a three year programme of work. It was requisite that the £900,000 funding from the from the Department of Health was matched with £900,000 additional capital or revenue funding from other sources. The £32,000 from the Area Based Grant settlement would form part of this match funding. A breakdown of the remaining match funding is provided in Appendix A.

1.2 Issues

- 1.2.1 The META project, run by the Keystone Development Trust on behalf of the Thetford Healthy Town Project, provides an advice, information and advocacy service for migrant workers [and communities] in Thetford.
- 1.2.2 A breakdown of the usage statistics is provided in Appendix B.
- 1.2.3 Although funding of £32,000 from the Area Based Grant Settlement 2008-11 was ring-fenced for this project in late 2009, the requisite Cabinet approval has not been obtained to date, to release this funding to NHS Norfolk. The funding was provided up front by NHS Norfolk and they are now seeking the match funding contribution from Breckland Council for this element of the project.
- 1.2.4 This report seeks Cabinet's approval to release this funding to NHS Norfolk and provide a contribution from Breckland Council to the overall match funding (£900,000) of the Thetford: Healthy Town project.

1.3 Options

- 1.3.1 To approve funding of £32,000 from the Area Based Grant Settlement 2008-2011 to NHS Norfolk for the META scheme [part of the Healthy Town: Thetford project].
- 1.3.2 To not approve funding of £32,000 from the Area Based Grant Settlement 2008-2011 to NHS Norfolk for the META scheme [part of the Healthy Town: Thetford project].

1.4 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.4.1 Thetford: Healthy Town is a significant project within Breckland – aligned to Council priorities – and is addressing the health inequalities that exist within the district. The META scheme has and continues to be an integral part of the project's success. Breckland Council funding for this project will be an important contribution to the overall match funding required to satisfy the Department of Health.

2. IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Risk None

2.2 **Financial** Detailed above and in Proforma B attached

2.3 **Legal** None

2.4 **Equality and Diversity** None

3. Alignment to Council Priorities

3.1 Building safer and stronger communities

4. Wards/Communities Affected

4.1 All Thetford Wards

Background papers: None

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

This is not a key decision.