

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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<b>Report Originator</b>	Helen Edwards Head of Democratic & Legal Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A17/061	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	ALL	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	
<b>Title</b>	<b>AMENDMENT TO WARD INITIATIVE FUND RESTRICTIONS</b>		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To relay a request from the Research & Development Committee that the Executive make amendments to the Ward Initiative Fund guidelines to remove the following prohibitions:-

- i) Any request where the beneficiary has received or is set to receive funding from any other scheme of the Borough Council or County Council; and
- ii) The Ward Initiative Fund will not substitute itself as a provider/ funder of services when another public provider cuts such a service; and
- iii) Where appropriate to enable Ward Initiative Fund payments to be made upon receipt of quotes or pro forma invoices to enable fund recipients to receive payment in a timely fashion.

### 2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Ward Initiative Fund (WIF) is an amount of £625 allocated to each elected member per annum of their four year term that provides members with the opportunity to enhance the undertaking of their community representation role. The fund does not form part of the Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 2.2 The current WIF Guidelines provide a non-exhaustive list of prohibited uses of the fund as well as acceptable uses and are attached as Appendix A. A more recently produced "dos and don'ts" advice note is included at Appendix B.
- 2.3 At the meeting on 4th April Research and Development Committee requested that an item be brought to the next meeting regarding WIF Guidelines with a view to considering whether these should be reviewed.
- 2.4 The Ward Initiatives Fund was created nearly twenty years ago and has remained largely unchanged in that time. The bulk of the restrictions relate to a desire for the fund not to be used as a "back door" replacement for other public funding streams, so that it did not encourage a habit whereby the Borough Council effectively subsidised the activities and responsibilities of other public agencies. Members have found some of these restrictions frustrating particularly in contrast to the County Council's member empowerment scheme, which did not take this view.

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2.5 The reasoning behind each of the three recommendations was as follows:

- i) Any request where the beneficiary has received or is set to receive funding from any other scheme of the Borough Council or County Council; and  
*This recommendation was made because there are some large schemes where it might be appropriate for contributions to be made from a number of sources, including WIF.*
- ii) The Ward Initiative Fund will not substitute itself as a provider/ funder of services when another public provider cuts such a service; and  
*This recommendation was made because in some circumstances, it might be appropriate for a WIF contribution to be made and this would be automatically prevented if there had previously been funding provided from elsewhere.*
- iii) Where appropriate to enable Ward Initiative Fund payments to be made upon receipt of quotes or pro forma invoices to enable fund recipients to receive payment in a timely fashion.  
This was to cover the situation where the money might be needed to allow a purchase to be made (e.g. for a service/ supplier at a public event) and where the purchase could not be made if the money was not provided “up front”. In all such circumstances the final invoice would be provided when available to support the quote or pro forma.

2.6 It was considered that these amendments would not weaken the governance of the scheme, because an application would still need to be made in each case.

### **3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

3.1 None

### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 If Executive accepts these recommendations, the policy for approval of applications will be amended accordingly.

### **5. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

### **6. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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None

### **8. RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 To amend the Ward Initiative Fund guidelines to remove the following prohibitions:

- i) Any request where the beneficiary has received or is set to receive funding from any other scheme of the Borough Council or County Council; and
- ii) The Ward Initiative Fund will not substitute itself as a provider/ funder of services when another public provider cuts such a service; and
- iii) Where appropriate to enable Ward Initiative Fund payments to be made upon receipt of quotes or pro forma invoices to enable fund recipients to receive payment in a timely fashion.

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Background Papers: None

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports: Report to Research & Development Committee

Ref:

Date: 12/06/18