

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	24 March 2015
Report of:	Dr Heather Grimbaldeston, Director of Public Health
Subject/Title:	Public Health Transformation Fund
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Janet Clowes Health and Adult Social Care

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Public Health Transformation Fund has been specifically created to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Cheshire East. This dedicated, flexible and time-limited financial fund was established from the ring fenced Public Health budget, by Cabinet, to enable residents to access and benefit from innovative approaches to health not previously available in Cheshire East through statutory, voluntary, community, faith and private sector transformation initiatives.
- 1.2 Cabinet received a report on the Public Health Transformation fund on the 22/7/14, and resolved that the creation of the Public Health Transformation Fund be approved and that the decision to make the awards be delegated to the Fund Panel, chaired by the Portfolio Holder and that the Panel report back to Cabinet on performance.
- 1.3 The period defined for the Transformation Fund bids within the Cabinet Report was the current financial year, with completion of service delivery within a two year period or by 31/3/16.

‘Bidders from statutory, voluntary, community, faith and private sectors may submit business cases and be provided with funding within the financial period 01st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. Funding may cover projects lasting up to 2 years (to 31st March 2016).

Bidders will be able to submit proposals in two or three tranches. Projects are routinely expected to be between £30,000 and £150,000.

Proposals will be formally evaluated by a Transformation Fund Panel. The Panel has a mandated minimum membership and includes an external, independent assessor from Public Health England and is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Health. The Panel Criteria for award will include assessment of the evidence

base, population need, delivery planning, quality, identified risks and finance.’ Extract from the original Cabinet report.

Four sets of panels have been held to review the submissions. Interest in the fund has been significant with 42 bids received of which 13 have been successful.

To maximise the health and wellbeing benefits for our population we wish to seek a Portfolio Holder decision to enable officers to extend beyond the 31/3/16 grant agreements where the bidders proposal is for a specific period e.g. 2 years from the date of commencement [all commencement periods are likely to be between January 2015 and July 2015]. TO NOTE – all funding for all of the projects is being made available from the 2014/15 budget, none recurrently. This paper does not request any additional funding to be made available

- 1.4 A Portfolio Holder decision is required to enable an extension to grant agreements to be given for projects that would go beyond 31/3/16, as Portfolio Holders may offer advice on a Cabinet or Council decision, or give direction as to how a Cabinet or Council decision should be implemented, allowing for minor changes to made.
- 1.5 We are therefore asking for a Portfolio Holder decision for a minor change to allow 7 bids from the Transformation Panels to extend beyond March 2016.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder agrees that this is an appropriate Portfolio Holder decision given that Cabinet approved the Transformation Fund, and the financial spend for successful projects on the 22/7/14.
- 2.2 That the Portfolio Holder delegates authority to officers to extend grant agreements to enable the full delivery of projects, not exceeding two years from the date of the grant.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The bids that are affected by the 31/3/16 deadline will commence service delivery between January 2015 and July 2015. Where the service period is greater than the 31/3/16, a grant extension would be issued following the agreement of the Portfolio Holder which is the subject of this Portfolio Holder decision report.
- 3.2 Service providers will receive grant payments during this financial year 2014/15, and 2015/16. The fund spend expected beyond 31/3/16 will be below the £1m Portfolio Holder decision threshold.

- 3.3 We want to ensure that the service providers are able to optimise the successful outcomes for our residents, by being able to offer the grant extension for the term of their original bid to the Transformation Fund.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred some public health responsibilities and services to Local Authorities in April 2013.

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

- 7.1 There are no disproportionate implications for our rural communities, as the Transformation Fund was publicised via the procurement portal, and as such was accessible for all to be able to submit bids.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The table below outlines the Public Health Transformation fund element that requires Portfolio Holder decision as the spend would be beyond 31/3/16. It must be noted that all of these payments can be afforded within the existing affordability envelope for 2014/15 as part of the ring-fenced Public Health allocation.

Transformation Fund Grant Summary		
Phase 1-3	Payments beyond March 2016 (require approval through Portfolio Holder Decision)	£145,870
Phase 4	Require approval through Informal Cabinet of the successful bids, and by the Portfolio Holder Decision for the financial spend	£17,631
Total Amount Requiring Approval through Portfolio Holder decision		£163,501
Total Transformation Grant Allocation		£1,074,627

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The current authority for the Council to enter into grant agreements with successful bidders for Transformation Fund Awards is the Cabinet

Resolution from the meeting of 22 July 2014 (minute number 30). The report to this meeting stated that

“Funding may cover projects lasting up to 2 years (to 31st March 2016)”.

Grant agreements have been issued to successful bidders on this basis. Although some bidders have submitted requests for funding for projects going beyond this date, there is no current authority to allow for funding on this basis. The grant agreements issued allow for an extension of the grant term, should further authority be forthcoming.

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 By taking a Portfolio Holder decision we are mitigating the risk of ceasing grant funded innovative services before the optimum term expected through the Transformation Fund bidding process.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 The full range of Transformation fund papers provided for Cabinet on the 20/7/14 can be accessed through the following link:
<http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/b8927/Public%20Health%20Transformation%20Fund%20-%20amended%20report%20and%20appendices%2022nd-Jul-2014%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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