



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: CROSS CUTTING

Date of Meeting: **3rd October 2005**

Public

Key Decision: **No**

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: **CUMBRIA FLOOD RECOVERY FUND**

Report of: **HEAD OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Report reference: **ECD.13/05**

Summary:

In the period of immediate flood recovery the City Council made a donation to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund, managed by the Cumbria Community Foundation. The CCF is considering the future of the fund and has also made a request for further funding.

Recommendations:

The Executive is requested to:

- a) Comment on the continuation of the fund
- b) Consider if a further financial contribution is required in the light of the amounts already nominated for other flood recovery and resilience work.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 Following the floods and storms of January 2005, the Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF) set up a response fund to help people affected. Local taxpayers, through the City Council, made a donation of £50,000 to the fund, to be spent in the Carlisle area. The City and County Councils have now received a request from the Cumbria Community Foundation for additional resources to continue the work of the Flood Recovery Fund. This followed a request by the Trustees of the Foundation to review the future of the Fund. The Foundation's officers produced a consultation paper in April 2005 for key stakeholders regarding the future of the Fund and its role. The paper sets out the background to the Appeal, progress with fundraising and grant making to date and current and predicted demand (as far as this can be achieved). The paper is attached. (Appendix 1)
- 1.2 The paper concludes that the potential for further community or corporate fundraising is limited and the only prospect of additional resources is the public sector. At the end of section 5, two questions are posed:
- Would you wish the fund to continue its operation?
 - Are you able to provide additional monies to enable this?
- 1.3 The CCF has approached the City Council for a response to the questions. The financial contribution was requested either directly or by forwarding the request on to national government sources of support. The level of demand from individuals on the fund has fluctuated from a peak in April and gradually reduced to a low over the summer months. Recently the demand has started to grow again.
- 1.4 The Town Clerk & Chief Executive followed up the request by asking for confirmation that the first £50,000 contribution had gone directly to support people living in Carlisle and a breakdown of the spend was requested. In response, CCF advised that the entire original £50,000 donation from the City Council had been spent in Carlisle. Also, the vast majority of the Funds raised were also distributed in Carlisle.
- 1.5 Since the initial request there have been some further developments. Firstly CCF has confirmed that it wishes to make the majority of the remaining funds available for individuals as opposed to groups. Secondly, the County Council Cabinet has agreed to support the Fund with another £40,000, this has been the only substantial additional contribution recently. Following the above donation the balance of the fund now stands at approximately £100,000.

1.6 The Executive will wish to consider its response in the light of its other flood recovery work. Members will be aware that the Council continues to support flood victims and in particular those uninsured. From the £1.5 million grant provided by Government following the flooding works have been funded including the following:

• Stock Condition Survey	£98,000
• Flood Resilience Measures Pilot Project	£180,000
• Uninsured Properties	£325,000
• Decent Homes	£325,000
• Energy Efficiency Works	£50,000
• Improvements to Back Lanes	£297,000
• Clean Up Works	£112,000
• Landscaping Works	£25,000
• Allotment Works	£65,000

The Council has agreed to put over £1m of its resources into developing the Carlisle Renaissance initiative. The Council has also supported the Communities Reunited initiative in its operations at the Old Town Hall.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date. None

2.2 Consultation proposed. None

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is requested to:

- a) Comment on the continuation of the fund
- b) Consider if a further financial contribution is required in the light of the amounts already nominated for other flood recovery and resilience work.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To respond to the request made by the CCF.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – The City Council has to date had an officer representative on the fund panel. It would be appropriate for this to continue if the fund continues.
- Financial – If the Executive is minded to make a further contribution to the Fund it would not be possible to find this from existing resources within Economic & Community Development budgets. A further contribution would have to be funded either from new money or from savings identified corporately.
- Legal – The Council has power to incur expenditure in connection with the promotion of the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area if it so wishes.
- Corporate – The City Council has worked closely with the CCF during the period of immediate flood recovery and in building up stability in local communities through the Communities Reunited initiative.
- Risk Management – The City Council's reputation could be enhanced through a further contribution to the fund.
- Equality Issues – The fund enables the most vulnerable people in communities to be assisted.
- Environmental – The fund assists projects which improve local quality of life.
- Crime and Disorder – The fund has helped to restore stability in local communities.
- Impact on Customers – The fund directly helps local people in Carlisle.

Appendix 1

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund: Future Development

Consultation Document 19th April 2005

1.0 Introduction

The Trustees of the Cumbria Community Foundation have asked for a review to be undertaken regarding the future of the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund. This paper sets out the background to the Appeal, progress with fundraising and grant making to date and current and predicted demand (as far as this can be achieved).

The aim of the paper is to consult key stakeholders regarding the future of the Fund and its role.

2.0 Background

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund was launched 10th January 2005 with the aim of providing funds to address the financial hardship of people and community organisations affected by the storms and flooding countywide.

As at 19th April the Appeal has raised £709,487. Funds have been raised from public bodies, charitable trusts, local companies, individuals and families and a wide range of community fundraising events. All major potential donors who were approached for a donation have given generously to the Appeal.

The Fund has operated two grants programmes, one for voluntary and community organisations and another for individuals and families.

To date 41 grants have been made to groups totalling £271,578 (a list of projects is attached)

In addition 572 grants have been made to 521 households, supporting 1,175 individuals. The total value of grants to households is currently £259,653.

3.0 Value of Grants

A number of strategic grants were made to groups at the start of the Appeal to enhance and co-ordinate the capacity of key organisations and projects such as Citizens Advice Bureaux, Law Centre, Age Concern, Carlisle Churches' Floor Response and Impact Housings Furniture Recycling project. Together with other associated projects significant support and advice has been put in place. It is too early to evaluate the impact of these grants, however initial feedback suggests that the combined efforts of voluntary and community groups has been of tremendous support to people.

Hardship grants to individuals and families have been instrumental in enabling people to begin the process of re-building their homes. Many of the grants have been for basic essentials - food, clothing, furniture etc.

4.0 Current Position

The Fund has £143,000 remaining, with £83,000 ring fenced for individual hardship grants and £60,000 for groups. We are currently distributing approximately £15,000 per week in grants to households. In addition the Grants Committee has considered £60,000 in applications in March and £42,000 so far in April.

Donations to the Fund have slowed considerably, with only a small number of trusts yet to make decisions regarding our requests for support.

On this basis we expect the Fund to be exhausted by the beginning of June.

5.0 Future Demand and Revised Appeal Target

It is extremely difficult to predict future demand to the Fund. However there is a strongly held view that many families will not know the full extent of their need until they return to their homes. This is likely to be mainly during the period September to December 2005.

The priority for the Flood Grants Committee is to secure Funds for grants for individuals and households. With ongoing demand currently running at £60,000 a month and estimating further awards at an average of £450 we predict that although the requests are expected to slow there may be the need for around an additional £150-200,000.

In addition there may be additional requests for grant aid from groups providing direct support services to the affected families (advice, counselling etc).

The potential for further public or corporate fundraising is limited, therefore the only remaining source of funds is the public sector.

We believe that grants to individuals and families can contribute significantly to maintaining community cohesion and in preserving the quality of life for people who are in extreme difficulties.

The Foundation is committed to ongoing management of the Fund, however this is dependent on securing additional resources. Before additional Funds can be committed to the Fund from the public sector it is clear that key stakeholders must recognise and support the role of the Fund.

Therefore we need to know the answer to the following questions:

1. Would you wish the Fund to continue its operation ? and,
2. Are you able to provide additional monies to enable this ?

Grants to Groups

Age Concern Carlisle and District	This project will help elderly people who have been affected by the floods to re-establish their household. The bid is for one full time worker for up to one year to undertake specific works.	£18,000.00
Bitts Park City Tennis Club	Replacement equipment lost in the floods.	£2,000.00
Botcherby Community Centre	Damage and loss of items caused by floods.	£8,321.26
Botcherby Healthy Living Initiative	Funding for a cyber café.	£15,000.00
British Red Cross Cumbria Branch	Recover costs incurred in the response to the flooding emergency.	£6,429.40
C.M.B.Newlaithes Football Club	Refurbishment of changing facilities and kitchen, grass cutting tractors and equipment after ruined in floods.	£7,000.00
Carlisle Churches Flood Response (St James' Church)	To run a series of six mobile centres.	£10,000.00
Carlisle Citizens Advice Bureau	Five extra advice sessions each week.	£8,720.00
Carlisle Community Law Centre	Advice and assistance for victims of storms and floods.	£7,580.00
Carlisle Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	Flood Recovery Advice Day.	£3,022.00
Carlisle Cricket Club	Repair/replacement of non-turf wickets after flooding.	£6,000.00
Carlisle Housing Association	Basic furnishings for accommodation for individuals and families affected by the floods.	£30,000.00
Carlisle Rugby Football Club	Replacement of items lost or damaged in the floods.	£7,000.00
Carlisle Snowsports Club	Re-open ski club after floods.	£7,750.00
Cockermouth Cricket Club	Restoration and refurbishment of artificial wicket following severe flood damage.	£3,000.00
Down a Gate Community Centre and Recreation Association Warwick Bridge	Replace contents as damaged in floods.	£2,500.00
Early Birds Breakfast Club Carlisle	Replacement equipment for breakfast club.	£3,315.68
Eden Citizens Advice Bureau	Eden Flood Recovery Project.	£1,500.00
Eden Community Outdoors (ECO)	Repair costs due to damage caused by the floods.	£5,000.00
Eden Valley Hospice	Critical incident counselling outreach and support service.	£4,000.00
Fitz Park Charitable Trust	During the storm a complete footbridge into the park was lost, which needs to be replaced. A large area of the pathways near to the river has been completely eroded making the area unsafe for use. The trust would like to make good all these areas.	£7,000.00
Generate Trust Ltd Carlisle	To enable a drop in / youth club provision to be established after school and evenings for children and young people.	£6,000.00
Greystone Community Association Carlisle	Cumbria Flood Therapy Group.	£8,370.00

Greystone Community Association Carlisle	Retrospective funding to cover the costs we incurred while providing a respite centre for those who had been flooded. The centre was open from 15/1/05 until 28/1/05 providing advice, hot meals, refreshments and supplies.	£5,600.00
Greystone Community Association Carlisle	Summer holiday play scheme for children 5-11 affected by the recent flooding in Carlisle.	£5,000.00
Home Appliances (Flimby) Ltd	Carlisle flood victims.	£9,600.00
Impact Housing Association Ltd (Carlisle)	To provide warehouse for all donated furniture for the flood recovery.	£29,770.00
Impact Housing Association Ltd (Carlisle)	To support the furniture flood programme.	£5,000.00
Kerygma Trust	Replacement of equipment lost in the flood.	£250.00
Keswick Cricket Club	To purchase two new sightscreens which were damaged in the storms.	£1,000.00
Keswick Rugby Club	Damage caused by the floods.	£5,000.00
Keswick Youth Centre	Restoration of the building which was caused following the flood damage in Jan 05.	£7,000.00
Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Church Carlisle	Replacement canoe and paddle. They were borrowed by the rescue teams during the floods.	£705.50
Petteril Bank Community Centre	Replacement of equipment damaged in floods.	£5,000.00
Rainbow Soft Play Carlisle	Work with families affected by the disaster.	£2,285.00
Reivers District Scout Council	Post flood camp.	£2,500.00
Self Injury Support in North Cumbria (SIS)	Extra management and staff costs due to flood damage.	£5,000.00
St Matthew's Community Hall Management Committee Barrow	Replacement/re-roofing of one face of a twin roof system caused by the storms.	£4,700.00
The Lake District Calvert Trust	Restoration of lakeside path and boathouse area after flood damage.	£1,090.00
Whitehaven Citizens Advice Bureau	Funding to be able to help clients deal with insurance issues, uninsured losses, questions about compensation for loss of utilities, problems with tradesman etc. It will particularly benefit clients who are elderly/vulnerable.	£2,500.00
YWCA	Arts, film and photographic based project working with young people affected by the floods.	£2,068.75

