



**Minute Reference:** BTSP 82/18 (4)

**Meeting date:** 29 November 2018

Public

**Written response to:** Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

**Resolution:** 2) *That the Funding Officer provide the Panel with a list of the funding that the Council had applied for including where the funding was successful, where it was not, the reason why it had not been successful, and lessons learned from unsuccessful bids.*

**Written response from:**

Abigail Roberts (Funding Officer)

**Response:**

### Carlisle City Council Funding bids 2016/19

Fund	Project	Directorate	Bid Amount	Status
HLF Townscapes Fund	Botchergate Conservation Area	Economic Development	772,800	<p>The HLF Townscapes bid for Botchergate was unsuccessful for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversubscribed because it was the last time a bid could be submitted to this grant fund.</li><li>• Additional community engagement, perhaps this needs to be balanced against not wanting to raise expectations with potential beneficiaries.</li><li>• In other areas, e.g. Gateshead, the Townscape project failed because local businesses did not</li></ul>

				<p>understand the need for heritage related improvements or wish to contribute financially- so an element of HLF being cautious in selecting areas where the project are more likely to succeed irrespective of the strength of the need or case made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In retrospect it would be better to start with a small place making project to engage with local people as a catalyst to regeneration hence the Christchurch Gardens Project is progressing.</li> </ul>
Arts England Bid	Programme development Old Fire Station	Community Services	39,000	Successful + Delivered and finished
HLF - Sharing Heritage	Cracker Packer Exhibition (Spirit of the Cracker Packers)	Economic Development	9,800	Successful + Delivered and finished
DCLG via Cumbria County Council	Flood Resilience Grants for householders	Corporate Support Finance & Resources	5,227,411	<p>Successful + Delivered      Grant Awarded</p> <p>2017/18 £2,941,097</p> <p>2016/17 £2,286,325</p>
Tennis Foundation	Disability Tennis	Community Services	4,053	Successful + Delivered
Cumbria County Council	Harraby Cycle Track	Community Services	78,580	Successful + Delivered

Harraby together We Can	Harraby Cycle Track	Community Services	11,900	Successful
Pladis Foods Ltd	Cracker Packer Statue	Community Services	10,000	Successful + Delivered
Cumbria Community Foundation	Cracker Packer Statue	Community Services	5,000	Successful + Delivered
Groundwork UK	Chances Park Play area	Community Services	2,000	Successful
Groundwork UK	Jubilee Road Play Area	Community Services	15,000	Successful
Groundwork UK	Outdoor Exercise Equipment	Community Services	1,500	Successful
Cumbria County Council	Fit for Life	Community Services	200	Successful
Discover England (Round 1)  Arts Council	Growing new international audiences for England's Heritage Product	Economic Development	200,000  50,000	Successful and delivered
Discover England	English Heritage Cites Bridging Grant	Economic Development	40,000	Successful
Discover England (Round 2)	Promoting English Heritage Cities	Economic Development	1,000,000	Successful
DCLG	Carlisle South - Garden village	Economic Development	228,570	Successful

Cumbria County Council	Supporting People	Governance & Regulatory Services	122,304	Successful
Department for Communities & Local Government	Specialist Accommodation Domestic Abuse Victim support	Governance & Regulatory Services	363,257 14,573	Successful Top up awarded
Department for Communities & Local Government	Preventing Homelessness	Governance & Regulatory Services	27,483	Successful
Various charities etc	Home Improvement Agency	Governance & Regulatory Services	17153	Successful
Foundations for Independent Living trust	Gas Safety 2017/18	Governance & Regulatory Services	19,000	Successful
Department for Work & Pensions	Local Authority Data Sharing (LADS)	Corporate Support & Resources	10,148	Successful
Department for Work & Pensions	Real Time Information	Corporate Support & Resources	5,070	Successful
Home Office Migration Fund	Rouge Landlord Officer	Governance & Regulatory Services	89,500	Successful
Cumbria County Council	Pirelli Cycle Link	Governance & Regulatory Services	28,440	Successful

Rural Payments Agency	Farm Payment Scheme	Community Services	83,077	Successful
Rural Payments Agency	Higher Land Stewardship	Community Services	22,943	Successful
	3 way youth camp	Community Services	1,498	Successful
Cabinet Office	Individual Electoral Registration	Governance & Regulatory Services	35,786	Successful
Cabinet Office	One Public Estate SADP	Governance & Regulatory Services	40,000	Successful
Foundations for Independent Living trust	Flood Worker Case Officer	Governance & Regulatory Services	23,650	Successful
Homes & Communities Agency	St Cuthbert's Garden Village Capacity Building Funding	Economic Development	275,000	Successful
ERDF (Priority Axis 3)	Carlisle Spark (BIC Centre, 4/5 Paternoster Row (BIC))	Economic Development	600,879	Successful (EOI) Full application now submitted and awaiting outcome.
£15 million Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund to boost region's tech, creative and cultural industries	Redeveloping the Business Interaction Centre (BIC) and Enterprise Centre (EC) to	Economic Development	700,000	Unsuccessful – very competitive fund. It is understood that the funder was looking for projects of regional importance / interest. Hence the bid for capital investment covering Windermere Jetty, Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum and Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum – i.e. improving the visitor 'offer' of the World Heritage Lake District - going through.

	provide creative workspaces that meet the diverse needs of the cultural, creative and digital sectors.			
Historic England HAZ Fund	Heritage Action Zone	Economic Development	1,000,000	<p>Unsuccessful</p> <p>Similar project to Townscape Heritage Initiative so again it was very competitive. We got down to the final 2 and were up against a council that had submitted the previous year and had comeback with a more honed application that had high level council support throughout the application process which included an interview. In future it would be appropriate to have Director and Leader support at the interview stage of the process. The heritage offer of Botchergate is a hard sell.</p> <p>Having the right level of supporting evidence of need is crucial for bids at this level which takes time to gather and sometimes investment.</p>
Future Parks Accelerator	Green Spaces	Community Services	500,000	Unsuccessful – competitive fund and funder unable to provide detailed feedback.
Planning Delivery Fund	St Cuthbert's Garden Village Capacity Building Funding	Economic Development	190,000	Unsuccessful – tight timescales to develop and submit application. The fund tended to favour joint bids i.e. cross boundary working and projects.

## Support to Carlisle Partnership bids and External Organisations (in-line with the Councils key priorities)

Fund	Project	Directorate	Bid Amount	Status
Aviva Fund	Sugar Smart Carlisle	Community Services	100	Successful
Sustainable Food Cities Grant Application	Sugar Smart Carlisle Coordinator and campaign	Community Services	15,000	Successful
Controlling Migration Fund	County wide support for Syrian Refugee Settlement Programme	Governance & Regulatory Services	186,527	Successful Project delivered by AWAZ.
HLF - Landscape Partnership	North Pennines AONB Partnership	Community Services	162,000	Successful
BIG Lottery Fund – Awards for All	New homeless accommodation and drop-in Centre – Carlisle Key	Governance & Regulatory Services	10,000	Successful
FCSCT	Carlisle Key	Governance & Regulatory Services	40,000	Successful

LandAid Fund	Carlisle Key	Governance & Regulatory Services	31,000	Successful
Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All)	Sugar Smart Carlisle	Community Services	10,000	Successful
Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All)	Meals on Wheels	Carlisle Partnership	10,000	Successful
Cumbria County Public Health Fund	Sugar Smart Carlisle Campaign - Food Carlisle	Community Services	7,580	Unsuccessful –feedback from the grants panel was that the Sugar Smart application was well written and describes an ambitious and positive project. However, the intention of the community grants is to help build capacity in community settings; and whilst the Sugar Smart proposal is positive and comprehensive, it was felt to be a relatively short-term campaign. Furthermore, the overall public health funding pot was significantly reduced, which unfortunately impacted on the number of projects that can be funded. The recommendation from the Grants Panel was therefore not to take this application forward, which informed the final decision in relation to the public health funding. That said, it was recognised that Sugar Smart is a positive campaign, and that the funder would be very happy to support it and help with awareness-raising through their networks.
One Stop Carrier for Causes	Sugar Smart Carlisle Campaign - Food Carlisle	Community Services	2,000	Unsuccessful – Competitive fund and other projects demonstrated better value for money.
TransPennine Express Transform Fund	Carlisle Undercroft - Arts, Culture and Heritage project	Economic Development	5,000	Unsuccessful – fund over subscribed



Aviva Fund	Carlisle Undercroft - Arts, Culture and Heritage project	Economic Development	10,000	Unsuccessful - the project was shortlisted but not successful.
Place Based Social Action Fund (BIG)	Carlisle Partnership	Community Services	5,000	Unsuccessful – The funder assessed the idea against a number of criteria and they judged that the Expression of Interest did not meet the requirements of the programme as strongly as other ideas submitted.
Children's Foundation	Sugar Smart Carlisle	Community Services	1,000	Unsuccessful - large number of applications that met the criteria. Specific feedback on the application was that although it is a great project the materials required did not directly benefit Children and therefore did not meet the funders eligibility criteria.

### **Key summary of why bids have been unsuccessful:**

- Funds are typically over-subscribed/competitive.
- The bid development in some cases has been rushed due to tight timescales.
- In some cases, lack of capacity and/or skills to develop applications.
- Project not a good enough fit for funders criteria.
- Lack of funder engagement to ensure project and fund fit.
- Lack of stakeholder engagement.
- Lack of high level council support at key stages of the application process.
- Having the right level of supporting evidence of need is crucial for bids at a high level which takes time to gather and investment.
- Barriers of being a local authority and confusion with funders as to what is or isn't a statutory provision.

### **Lessons learned:**

- Even good bids can fail.
- Information gathering can be used to inform future bids and collective thinking around programmes and projects.
- There is a need to better engage with stakeholders prior to developing and submitting a funding bid.
- Consider initial development funding to develop the idea and evidence the need.
- It is important to involve Funding Officer in project planning at the earliest stage to assist in a planned funding strategy to support the project. If planned appropriately it will prevent issues such as tight timescales and lack of resource. There will also be more time to contact funders and develop those key relationships.
- The Funding Officer is keeping key funders, such as the Big Lottery Fund, abreast of the Councils key priorities and pipeline projects.
- Internal officer training is being provided on GRANTfinder search engine to find new funding opportunities that fit with the Councils priorities and key related projects. We have had two sessions so far and more planned for this year.
- The Funding Officer can support preparatory work as well as the application development.
- An on-line [funding resource](https://www.carlisle.gov.uk/Residents/Grants-and-Funding) on the Councils webpage has been created. <https://www.carlisle.gov.uk/Residents/Grants-and-Funding>
- The Funding Officer is working with a collaboration group comprising of Local Authorities from Cumbria, the North East and key funders to better understand how to work together to support local needs.
- The current External Funding and Grant procedures are being revised and all officers who undertake any grant applications will be expected to undertake training on the procedures.
- Future funding training sessions are being considered.

**Date: 07/01/2018**