



PORTFOLIO AREA: Health and Community Activities

Date of Meeting: 14 January 2005

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CUMBRIA FLOOD RECOVERY FUND APPEAL
Report of: HEAD OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Report reference: ECD 01/05

Summary:

The Cumbria Community Foundation has launched an appeal to raise funds to support individuals and communities who have been affected by the floods of January 2005. The City Council has been asked for a contribution of £50,000 to match the amount being put in by the Foundation.

Recommendations:

The Executive is requested to consider:

- a) The request from the Cumbria Community Foundation to support the Flood Recovery Fund.
- b) Refer any decision to allocate funding to the Council
- c) The role of the Council in any decision making process.



1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The Cumbria Community Foundation has established the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund. The Foundation is a grant making charity. Established in 1999, it makes grants to voluntary and community groups throughout the county. It currently distributes in excess of £1m pa. In 2001 the Foundation launched the Cumbria Community Recovery Fund to assist the people and communities affected by Foot and Mouth Disease. In total the fund raised £2.1m, supporting over 300 groups and more than 1000 families.
- 1.2 The Flood Recovery Fund is for charitable purposes in connection with the relief of hardship within the county of Cumbria caused directly or indirectly by storm damage and flooding. Priorities for grant making are:
- 1) Individuals and families suffering financial hardship, and
 - 2) Community relief and 'rebuilding' projects
- 1.3 The characteristics of the Fund are:
- It provides a specifically Cumbrian focus for donations
 - It provides a central 'clearing house' for requests for charitable support
 - It operates a simple grant application procedure and responds speedily
 - It attracts support from National and Regional funders
 - It is locally managed and accountable.
- 1.4 Although no firm figure has yet been placed on the likely financial requirements of the affected local community so soon after the flooding, it is clear that substantial financial losses will have been incurred. Therefore an initial appeal target of £500,000 has been set by the Foundation. To date it has commitments totalling in excess of £150,000, including the support of HRH Prince of Wales.
- 1.5 The Foundation has committed £50,000 from its own funds to pump prime the Appeal and it is seeking contributions from other organisations and the public towards the appeal, from:
- Grant Making Trusts
 - Individuals and businesses
 - Existing and new European and National funding programmes
 - Community fundraising events
- 1.6 The Appeal is being promoted and supported by the Cumbrian Newspapers Group through the Evening News & Star and by CFM Radio. The County Council's Cabinet has now agreed to match the £50,000 from the foundation with its own contribution. A £50,000 contribution is requested from the City Council.

- 1.7 Details of the operation of the Fund and the criteria for grant support are attached. It is proposed to accept applications from 17 January 2005. The Executive may also wish to consider the role of the Council in the grant making process. A further update on the proposals in this respect will be given at the meeting.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Consultation to Date. Not applicable
- 2.2 Consultation proposed. Not applicable

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is requested to consider:

- a) The request from the Cumbria Community Foundation to support the Flood Recovery Fund.
- b) Refer any decision to allocate funding to the Council
- c) The role of the Council in any decision making process.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cumbria Community Foundation has made a formal approach to the City Council and a response is required.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – The fund would be administered by the Foundation. There would be no requirement upon the City Council to administer the finances. If the Council took part in the decision making process this could involve an officer or a Member.
- Financial – The request is for £50,000. The Head of Finance advises that this could be funded from the General Fund Reserves.
- Legal – The Council has the power to make such a contribution pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000.
- Corporate – Any comments to be reported at the meeting.
- Risk Management – The financial risk would be carried by the Foundation. The risk to the Council's reputation would be affected as a named partner if there were problems with the administration of the Fund. However the Foundation has a track record in administering similar funds and there are already several other high profile partner agencies and organisations involved.
- Equality Issues – The Fund would benefit vulnerable and excluded communities and individuals.

- Environmental – The Fund would enable the local environment to be restored more quickly.
- Crime and Disorder – The fund might help to prevent incidents of crime and disorder through a more rapid restoration of local conditions.
- Impact on Customers – Local communities would be assisted by the Fund.

CUMBRIA FLOOD RECOVERY FUND APPEAL

1.0 AIM

The Foundation has established the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund. This is for charitable purposes in connection with the relief of hardship within the county of Cumbria caused directly or indirectly by storm damage and flooding. Priorities for grant making are:

- 1) Individuals and families suffering financial hardship, and
- 2) Community relief and 'rebuilding' projects

We are working closely with other agencies involved.

2.0 APPEAL TARGET

It is difficult to assess the likely financial requirements so soon after the flooding. However, it is clear that substantial financial losses will have been incurred. Therefore an initial appeal target of £500,000 has been set. The Foundation has committed £50,000 from its own funds to prime the Appeal.

3.0 IMPACT & NEED

Although it is too soon to assess the full impact of the damage it is clear that this is a major disaster. Carlisle, Keswick, Appleby and other smaller communities within Cumbria have experienced the worst flooding in living memory. Houses, business premises and community facilities have all been damaged. To date at least three thousand households have been affected by the flooding with more heavy rain due over the next 36 hours. Over 80,000 homes were without power for two days and a further 5,000 have now been without power for over three days.

The effect of flooding will cause significant financial hardship and emotional distress. Businesses and community groups will be unable to trade. The Foundation will closely monitor the impact of the floods over the coming days. We are currently convening meetings with the major voluntary groups involved in the recovery effort. We are also working with the major providers of social housing to assess the impact on their tenants.

4.0 THE HALLMARKS OF THE FUND

In operating, the Fund bears these hallmarks:

- It provides a specifically Cumbrian focus for donations
- It provides a central 'clearing house' for requests for charitable support
- It operates a simple grant application procedure and responds speedily
- It attracts support from National and Regional funders
- It is locally managed and accountable

5.0 FUND RAISING FOR THE FUND

The Fund was established with an initial £50,000 from the Foundation's own funds. The Appeal is being promoted and supported by the Cumbrian Newspapers Group through the Evening News & Star.

Funds are being sought from:

- Grant Making Trusts
- Individuals and businesses
- Existing and new European and National funding programmes.
- Community fundraising events

In the face of uncertain future requirements, the Trustees of the Foundation set an initial target of £500K for the Fund

To date we have commitments totaling in excess of £150,000, including the support of HRH Prince of Wales.

The Fund can receive restricted donations, i.e. funds given for specific purposes and which recognise specific donors.

The Foundation will also make special mention for major donations as required.

Donations from tax payers can be made via Gift Aid, increasing the value of each £1 donated by 28p.

6.0 GRANT AID

Application Process

Application forms for community groups and individuals are available by telephone or e-mail (enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org) from the Foundation office or via the web site (www.cumbriafoundation.org). Applications will be considered on a weekly basis. Copies of the application forms for groups and individuals are contained in Appendix 1. Urgent appeals for assistance can be considered by the Chair of the Grants Committee and a Grants Officer.

Fund Criteria

The current criteria for individual and group applicants are contained in Appendix 2.

Decision Making

The Foundation will create a specific grant allocation committee, drawing on representation from the affected communities and involving local Trustees.

The members of the Grants Committee are:

- The Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Director of the Foundation
- A nominated officer from the Cumbria Association of Councils for Voluntary Service.
- A representative of Churches Together in Cumbria.
- Not more than four other members having special knowledge of value to the Committee, co-opted by the Grants Committee.

In the event of it appearing to the Grants Committee that the purposes of the Fund have been fulfilled as far as may be, and the Trustees so resolving, any balance then standing in the Fund shall thereupon be held by the Foundation for its general charitable purposes.

Requests for financial assistance will be assessed by the Foundation's professional grants officers.

Funding to individuals in need will be in line with the guidance given in Charity Commission booklet CC4 (January 2000).

Individual applicants must fall within the guidance provided under charity law. This does not mean that they must be destitute. An applicant who cannot afford the normal things in life, which most people would take for granted, would probably qualify. A sudden reduction in living standards could well lead to this situation. But grants will not be made which would have the effect of reducing state benefits to which an applicant might be entitled.

The Foundation believes that, understandably, many people who are suffering hardship as a result of storm damage and flooding may be reluctant to apply to the Foundation. An application can be made by one person (e.g. clergy) on behalf of another.

7.0 CUMBRIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - BACKGROUND

Cumbria Community Foundation is a grant making charity (Reg no 1075120). Established in 1999, it makes grants to voluntary and community groups throughout the county. It currently distributes in excess of £1m pa. In 2001 the Foundation launched the Cumbria Community Recovery Fund to assist the people and communities affected by Foot and Mouth Disease. In total the fund raised £2.1m, supporting over 300 groups and more than 1000 families.

The Cumbria Community Recovery Fund was one of a number of local 'crisis appeals' developed in response to FMD across the UK. We believe that lessons learnt from the success of the Appeal are transferable to the current situation.

Lessons learnt include:

- Impact on community organisations (loss of income, opportunities to expand services and respond to need)
- Personal financial hardship and the role of individual hardship grants

- The importance of a dedicated fund to secure and distribute financial support to community groups and individuals

8.0 THE FUTURE

It is still not certain how much damage has been caused, nor the extent of its adverse effects. A flexible response is therefore required. The Trustees of the Foundation are determined to do all in their power to meet needs in the fields in which the Fund will be applied. They are ready to increase the Appeal target, and to modify the organisation of the Appeal and the systems of grant making to satisfy emerging needs.

APPENDIX 2

Application Criteria

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund **emergency grants for individuals and families**

Grants may be made for charitable purposes to relieve hardship in Cumbria caused directly or indirectly by the storm and flooding in January 2005

Funded by donations from individuals, local businesses and government bodies

Who can apply?

- individuals or families whose homes have significant structural damage or flooding
- social landlords and others applying on behalf of tenants

We can provide support with the following:

- cleaning up
- emergency repairs
- clothing
- food and drink
- heating and heating equipment
- cookers and kettles
- child care equipment eg sterilizing equipment
- beds and bedding
- basic furniture

This is not an exhaustive list

Priority will be given to households with:

- people over 70
- children under five
- people with physical or learning disabilities or mental health needs (eg receiving Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Attendance Allowance)
- low incomes

If you are interested in applying, please read the following details carefully

We will not normally fund

- people who are fully insured
- replacing electrical equipment (except for heating and cooking)
- vehicles
- floor covering

- curtains
- businesses

How much can you apply for?

Maximum grant will normally be £500 (£1,000 in exceptional circumstances)

We may also ask you for the name of a referee who is known to you and can vouch for your circumstances

Grants are also available for voluntary and community groups – please see separate sheet

If you would like to know more about this fund

please contact David Andrews

tel 01900 820828/820822/825760

fax 01900 826527 email david@cumbriafoundation.org

website www.cumbriafoundation.org

Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund

emergency grants for voluntary and community groups

Grants may be made for charitable purposes to relieve hardship in Cumbria caused directly or indirectly by the storm and flooding in January 2005

Funded by donations from individuals, local businesses and statutory bodies

Who can apply?

Voluntary and community groups who

- are providing immediate relief to people who have been affected by the storms and floods
- will be providing longer term rebuilding projects
- have experienced significant structural and or flood damage

We can provide support with:

Relief services

- shelter
- food
- clothing
- cleanup

Additional support services

- information/advice
- counselling

Longer term projects

- rebuilding

Priority will be given to voluntary and community groups providing support to one or more of the following groups of people:

- Older adults
- Families with young children
- People with physical or learning disabilities
- People with mental health needs

And to projects showing:

- Evidence of collaboration with other service providers
- Maximise the use of volunteers

If you think your group is eligible for a grant please read the following details carefully
along with our *Applying for money* sheet

We **will not** normally fund:

- voluntary and community groups who are fully insured
- businesses
- any non charitable activity e.g. political
- fundraising events
- substitution for statutory funding

How much can you apply for?

Maximum grants will normally be £5,000 (£10,000 in exceptional circumstances)

We also administer a number of other funds and will automatically consider appropriate applications

Grants are also available for individuals and families – please see separate sheet

If you would like to know more about this fund please contact Clare Edwards

tel 01900 820822/825760

fax 01900 826527

clare@cumbriafoundation.org

www.cumbriafoundation.org