

**RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

*The form must be completed and passed to the Chief Officer Democratic and Registration Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Chief Officer Democratic and Registration Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.*

**1. Description of decision**

- i. To approve the acceptance of a ring-fenced grant of £29,785 for 2018/19 offered by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government under the Government's Cleaning up High Streets and Town Centres Initiative;
- ii. To approve the acceptance any further funding for the same purposes for 2019/20 and subsequent years that may be announce by the Ministry in due course.

**2. <sup>in</sup> Date of decision**

<sup>26</sup> March 2019

**3. Reasons for decision**

To enable an opportunity to do more, encourage communities to take greater pride in their local area and support campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean Campaign running from 22 March to 23 April.

**4. Alternatives considered and rejected**

The alternative of not accepting the grant was considered and rejected

**5. How decision is to be funded**

The decision will provide the Council with additional ring-fenced grant funding.

**6. Conflicts of interest**

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

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Signed *Dave Hodgson* Date 26/3/2019 Name of Decision Taker ... Dave Hodgson, Mayor.....

**This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Chief Officer Democratic and Registration Services as soon as it is completed.**

Date decision published: .....29.March.2019.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: .5.April.2019.....

(Decision to be made exempt from call in:.....NO.....)

## **Bedford Borough Council – REPORT TO THE MAYOR**

**Date – March 2019**

**Report by - Chief Officer for Environment**

**SUBJECT - Acceptance of Cleaning up High Streets and Town Centres Initiative Grant.**

### **1 Executive Summary**

The Mayor is requested to approve the acceptance of a ring-fenced revenue grant for 2018/19 from the Governments Cleaning up High Streets and Town Centres Initiative funding and to agree to accept any future funding for the same initiatives.

### **2 Recommendations**

That the Mayor considers, and if satisfied, agrees to:

- i. To approve the acceptance of a ring-fenced grant of **£29,785** for 2018/19 offered by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government under the Government's Cleaning up High Streets and Town Centres Initiative;
- ii. To approve the acceptance any further funding for the same purposes for 2019/20 and subsequent years that may be announce by the Ministry in due course.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendations**

To enable an opportunity to do more, encourage communities to take greater pride in their local area and support campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean Campaign running from 22 March to 23 April.

### **4 Key Implications**

#### **(a) Policy**

Corporate Plan: - (themes taken from the 2017-21 Corporate Plan)

The Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2021, Bedford Borough – the place to grow, focuses on four goals to get the best for the people of Bedford Borough. This funding meets two of these goals. 'Enhance Places' – enhancing the local areas we are responsible for, and encouraging positive activities; and 'Empower Communities' – individuals, communities and associations coming together.

**(b) Legal Issues**

There is no statutory duty or requirement to accept this funding, however The Ministry may take into consideration if the council does not spend this money for its intended purpose, including when they make regeneration funding decisions in future. Other teams within the Ministry will be notified.

**(c) Resource Implications**

The grant will provide additional revenue funding of £29,785 in the 2018/19 financial year. The funding will be ring-fenced and must be spent in accordance with the initiative and detailed under item 5 below.

**(d) Risk Implications**

Should the acceptance of the grant not be approved there is a risk that this may portray a negative image of the council to individuals, communities and associations who take greater pride in their local area by cleaning up litter across the borough.

The funding is only guaranteed until 31 March 2019 at present, therefore, care will be taken to avoid committing the Council to any ongoing expenditure after that date.

**(e) Environmental Implications**

By contributing to this initiative it is perceived this will have a positive impact on the environment by reducing litter in the Borough.

**(f) Equalities Impact**

In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Borough Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

There are no equality and diversity implications in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report, and no differential impacts are reasonably foreseeable.

**5 Details**

Councils across England will receive an immediate cash boost from a £9.75 million fund to back their efforts in cleaning up high streets and town centres. It comes ahead of the 'National High Street Perfect Day', a locally led and funded community clean-up planned for this summer.

The announcement also supports commitments in the government's Litter Strategy and prepares councils and communities ahead of the 'National High Street Perfect Day', a locally led and funded community clean-up planned for this summer.

The funding should be used to work with existing community groups to undertake community-led street and town centre cleans. For example, the council could spend this grant on:

- Expanding community clean-ups already taking place in March, such as the Great British Spring Clean commencing 22 March;
- Providing seed funding to resident groups to carry out clean up activity on high streets and town centres;
- Carrying out High Street and Town Centre clean ups that have already scoped, on which there has been positive resident engagement, and which can be delivered in March.

There is some flexibility in how the council can use this grant, uses could include: tools for community groups to tidy up, scrub an area and remove graffiti (transport services, high visibility vests, litter pickers, shovels, brushes, rakes, wheelbarrows, sacks, and gloves); training to empower residents of all ages to remove graffiti or tidy up fly-tipping; promotional material; and support for community events promoting such clean up activity to the wider community.

The programme of clean-ups is expected to have the following outcomes for the borough's residents:

- Increased pride in their local high streets and where they live;
- Increase in community cohesion as people work together with their neighbours; Enhanced social well-being as a result of increased volunteering;
- Better partnerships between communities and their local authority on the cleanliness agenda for their high streets and town centres; and
- More volunteers from local communities helping to maintain the public realm, ahead of other initiatives to support our High Streets including the Great British High Street Awards.

A monitoring form is to be completed and returned to the Ministry by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

The money will be paid in March through a section 31 grant. This money must be spent by the end of the 2018/19 financial year.

## **6 Summary of Consultations and Outcome**

The following Council Units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Consultation has been undertaken with:

Deputy Group Leader & Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture  
Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport  
Management Team  
Relevant Managers  
Finance  
Legal

No adverse comments have been received.

**7 Ward Councillor Views**

Not applicable

Report Contact Officer:

Paul Pace – Chief Officer Environment, [paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk) / ext. 47275

Previous Relevant Minutes:

None

Background Papers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/975-million-to-clean-our-high-streets>

Appendices:

None