
Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment
Date	17 September 2018
Present	Councillor Waller

15. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have had in respect of business on the agenda. He confirmed he had none.

16. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

17. Forgotten Corners - Fund Towards Transformation of Neglected and Unloved Green Spaces in York

The Executive Member considered a report that sought approval to award grants from the £100.000 fund created to improve forgotten corners within the city to those projects that had scored highly against the evaluation criteria.

The Community Involvement Officer gave an update and explained the fund, its objectives and how the opportunity to submit an expression of interest was advertised by means of a press release and through ward team distribution lists, York CVS, Minster FM and third party news bulletins.

The Executive Member noted that community groups, charities and other organisations across York were asked to identify a neglected corner of the city they wished to improve. Thirty expressions of interests were received from ten wards, where a project team defined the criteria assessed, considered the applicants eligibility and then ranked them against the fund criteria.

The Executive Member considered the list of organisations that had been offered funding and the Head of Equalities and Communities explained the reasons for part funding a project or refusing an application. It was noted that the successful organisations would be required to fully deliver their projects by the end of March 2019 and were to report back by 30 April 2019.

In answer to the Executive Members questions it was noted that:

- Environment and Community Officers would support successful applicants in delivery of their projects and should a project not be delivered the funds allocated would be reimbursed.
- Application forms for projects receiving over £5000 could be viewed at www.york.gov.uk/forgottencorners and the Head of Equalities and Communities could be contacted on 01904 551812 or jennifer.allott@york.gov.uk regarding projects granted under £5000.
- The Council would not be purchasing any materials but officers could link groups that were purchasing similar items.
- A forgotten corners plaque could be considered in recognition to the scheme.

The Executive Member thanked officers for their update.

Resolved:

- (i) That funding requested for projects listed in Table 1 be agreed, subject to a change to the Keith Chapman Memorial Garden creation, which should be fully funded and not part funded.
- (ii) That officers also offer support and guidance to those organisations that were unsuccessful, Friends of Melrosegate Field, Chill in the Community and Cornerstone Methodist Church.
- (iii) That an update report be brought to an Executive Member for Environment Decision Session after 30 April 2019 on project delivery.

Reason: To allow community groups sufficient time to deliver their projects by the end of March 2019.

Cllr Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 12:30pm and finished at 12:52pm].