



**Notice of a public  
Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Performance**

**Meeting to be held in consultation with the Executive Member for  
Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods (for agenda item 4 Approval of  
Financial Inclusion Innovation Fund Awards)**

**To:** Councillor Ayre (Executive Member for Finance and Performance) and Councillor Craghill (Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods)

**Date:** Monday, 16 March 2020

**Time:** 2.00 pm

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

**AGENDA**

**Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:**

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm on Wednesday 18 March 2020.**

\*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any items that are called in will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on Thursday 12 March 2020.**

## 1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

## 2. **Minutes**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 9 March 2020 (to follow).

## 3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Friday 13 March 2020**. Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the Executive Member's remit.

To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

### **Filming, Recording or Webcasting Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be filmed and webcast, or recorded, including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The broadcast can be viewed at <http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts> or, if recorded, this will be uploaded onto the Council's website following the meeting.

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting, i.e. tweeting. Anyone wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officer (contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at

[https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/11406/protocol\\_for\\_webcasting\\_filming\\_and\\_recording\\_of\\_council\\_meetings\\_20160809](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/11406/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_of_council_meetings_20160809)

**4. Approval of Financial Inclusion Innovation Fund Awards** (Pages 1 - 6)

This report seeks approval of the recommended award of £100,000 of grants to fund six projects to deliver financial inclusion activities in the city. The approval of the grants for the schemes comes following a round of competitive bids and a selection panel process.

**5. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Name: Angela Bielby

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For more information about any of the following, please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

**我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)**

**এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)**

**Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)**

**Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)**

**یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)**

**☎ (01904) 551550**

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**Joint Decision Session – Executive  
Members for Finance & Performance, and  
Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods**

**16 March 2020**

Report of the Assistant Director (Customer & Digital Services)

**Recommendations for approval of grants from the Financial Inclusion  
Innovation Fund 2020/21**

**Summary**

1. This report seeks approval of the recommended awards of grants under the above scheme following a round of competitive bids and a selection panel process.

**Recommendations**

2. The Executive Members are asked to approve the award of £100,000 of grants to fund six projects as set out below to deliver financial inclusion activities in the city. All projects are of a twelve month duration

| <b>Organisation</b>                  | <b>Project title</b>                                  | <b>Summary</b>   | <b>Amount</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCAAY) | Benefits Advocacy                                     | To provide advocacy support to help with applications, assessments and appeals | £5,500        |
| Citizens' Advice York                | Financial Inclusion at GP surgeries                   | Continue to develop co-ordinated advice work located in GP practices.          | £13,000*      |
| Citizens' Advice York                | Advice, Information & Budgeting in community settings | Continue to provide and develop community settings for advice                  | £30,026       |
| Peasholme Charity                    | My Money, My Life                                     | Continue delivery if its financial capability pathway service                  | £23,426       |
| Welfare Benefits Unit                | Universal Credit Focus                                | Continue to provide second tier in depth support to advisers                   | £12,898       |

|                |                                     |  |          |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------|
| Changing Lives | Financial & Social Inclusion Worker | Support vulnerable and hard to reach residents to gain financial independence. | £15,150* |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------|

\* Note: two bids were partially funded

Reason: to ensure that funds set aside to support the delivery of financial inclusion activity are allocated appropriately.

### **The Financial Inclusion Innovation Fund 2020/21**

3. The Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG) <sup>1</sup> is responsible for overseeing the delivery of a range of financial inclusion work including strategic oversight of the council's Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP), York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) and Council Tax Support (CTS) schemes. A number of bespoke projects are currently funded through FISG which has an approved base budget of £100k per year which is available for Financial Inclusion schemes.
4. The group's purpose is:
 

*'To ensure that local people have the knowledge of and access to appropriate services, allowing them to make more informed choices to achieve and maintain financial stability'.*
5. The aim of the group is to secure the following outcomes:
  - Ensure that residents have the knowledge to manage their finances effectively
  - Better coordination of advice services across the city
  - Advice givers and those 'sign posting' better understand the welfare benefits system
  - Explore opportunities to reduce general living expenses.
6. To target resources effectively to support those that need it most, bids are invited from partners across the sector for projects that promote financial inclusion. The group monitors on an ongoing basis grants awarded to local organisations to deliver projects that meet the group's objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Membership includes CYC directorate representatives, the Welfare Benefits Unit, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Citizens Advice York, Community First Credit Union and Executive Members for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods and for Finance & Performance.

7. The council provides a broad range of support to residents in need of support through a number of channels. The most recent summary of work in this area was reported to Executive on 21/2/20<sup>2</sup>. This included an update on the effectiveness of the projects that FISG already directly funds.
8. Invitations to bid for funding projects for 2020/21 were sent on 28 January closing on 21 February 2020. Eleven bids from nine organisations for grants were received totalling £205,169. Nine of the bids sought to build on projects already funded by FISG in 2019/20.
9. Bids were subject to panel selection with organisations making a presentation about their proposals. Rigorous selection is made against a range of criteria. Funded schemes are subject to the council's Financial Regulations and a Service Level Agreement is put in place for each project. Grants are paid by instalment with regular reporting on progress built in to ensure delivery. All eleven attended a selection panel held on 4 March 2020. The panel consisted of two senior CYC officers and a representative of the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.
10. Competition was very strong and all the bids had merit but given the amount of grants requested not all could be successful. Two of the bids recommended for funding are for amounts less than requested. The panel were extremely grateful for the interest shown and the quality of the submissions.

### **Consultation**

11. None required as this report is not a policy paper.

### **Analysis**

12. There is no further analysis other than the existing information provided in the report.

### **Council Plan**

13. Outcomes achieved through the council and its partners will contribute to the Council Plan commitment to help deliver 'Well paid jobs and an inclusive economy'. This includes tackling financial exclusion by investing in financial inclusion projects with measurable outcomes.

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<sup>2</sup> See item 9:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=11115&Ver=4>

## Implications

14. (a) **Financial** – The direct financial implications relate to the funding of the Financial Inclusion Innovation Fund bids which is funded within approved budget allocations/reserves. The funding available in 2020/21 is £100,000.
- (b) **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications
- (c) **Equalities** – There are no direct implications
- (d) **Legal** – There are no implications
- (e) **Crime and Disorder** - There are no implications
- (f) **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no implications
- (g) **Property** - There are no implications

## Risk Management

15. The key risk is that projects do not deliver required output – this is managed by an individual service level agreement per project and regular monitoring of outputs by the Financial Inclusion Steering Group. The outputs are also reported to Executive in a Financial Inclusion update every 6 months.

### Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Ian Floyd - Deputy Chief Executive & Director  
of Customer & Corporate Services



Report Approved



Date 05/03/20

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *None*

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

**Annexes:**

None

**Background Papers:**

Welfare Benefits Update and Financial Inclusion Outturn Report 2018/19

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=11107&Ver=4>

Recorded decisions on Awards under the 'Improving Finances, Improving Lives' grant scheme:

- 2018/19 Awards:  
<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5217>
- Extension of 2018/19 Awards:  
<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5434>
- Further Extension of Awards:  
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&MId=11415&Ver=4>  
and  
<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5634>

**List of Abbreviations**

|      |                                    |
|------|------------------------------------|
| CYC  | City of York Council               |
| FISG | Financial Inclusion Steering Group |

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