

12th April 2016

Executive Member Decision Session

Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement (Deputy Leader)

Report of the Director of City and Environmental Services

Economic Development for Acomb Front Street

Summary

1. At Cabinet on 1st October 2013, a fund of £30,000 was approved to be spent on improving the economy of Acomb Front Street.
2. Since this agreement, £12.2k has been spent or committed on a range of activities in Acomb Front Street, including planters, christmas trees and electrics and benches. Currently, there is £17.8k remaining in the fund.
3. It has been requested whether the Council may transfer the budget for improving Acomb Front Street to the Acomb Alive group to allow for a business focus on delivery. Acomb Alive is a group of local traders in this part of the city. This report asks the Executive Member to consider this request.
4. In order for the money to be transferred, details of the creation of Acomb Alive as an accountable body, including ongoing minutes outlining action against the Acomb Front Street fund, should be supplied to the Group Manager, Policy and Strategy Team (Economy and Place) so the Council has a record of this.

Recommendations

5. To achieve the Executive Member's ambitions to move resources closer to Acomb Front Street Businesses to focus on delivery, he may wish to agree to:

- (i) The transfer of the remaining Acomb Front Street budget to Acomb Alive

Reason: To empower the business community in Acomb to improve the area.

- (ii) Appropriate governance arrangements being adopted by Acomb Alive, to include the Council receiving regular updates on how the money has been spent and the outcomes achieved.

Reason: To ensure that Acomb Alive will be adequately placed to manage the budget on the specific purposes outlined in the original paper to Executive in October 2013.

Acomb Alive

- 6. Acomb Alive is a group of local business and community activists with an interest in improving the area around Acomb Front Street. It is currently chaired by Councillor Sue Hunter.
- 7. The body is a community group, but it is not currently an accountable body and will need to achieve this status with appropriate governance arrangements in order to be registered on City of York Council supplier systems and receive a payment. This is to ensure that any transfer made is consistent with any grant made by the council to an external body.
- 8. It will also be recommended that the organisation ensures that it provides appropriate evidence for any decision taken that requires the resource to be spent in the local area.

Implications

Financial

- 9. This decision is revenue neutral

Human Resources (HR)

- 10. No implications

Equalities

11.No implications

Legal

12.Acomb Alive is not currently an accountable body and will need to achieve this status with appropriate governance arrangements in order to be registered on our supplier system and receive a payment.

Crime and Disorder

13.Not applicable

Information Technology (ICT)

14.No implications

Property

15.Not applicable

Other

16.Not applicable

Risk Management

17.Any governance risks should be managed as per the legal arrangements outlined above.

Contact Details

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Executive Member responsible for the report:

Cllr Keith Aspden
Economic Development & Community
Engagement (Deputy Leader)

Report **Date** 4th April
Approved 2016

Chief Officer's name

Neil Ferris
Director, City and Environmental
Services

Report **Date** 4th April
Approved 2016

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Not applicable

Wards Affected: Acomb, Holgate & Westfield

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers:

Executive Report October 2013

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=7641&Ver=4>