

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director of Environment and Communities
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods
Submitted to:	Executive
Date:	8 January 2025
Title:	Community Recovery Fund
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Safe and resilient communities
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £250,000 and have a significant impact in two or more wards
Subject to call in?:	Yes
Why:	Placed on Forward Work Programme – Non urgent decision.

Executive summary

This report requests that Executive approves the recommendation on how £655,000 from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is spent.

The funding would be used to support the recovery from the riots that took place in Middlesbrough on Sunday 4th August 2024.

A breakdown of the areas of spend is included in the report at section 4.7. The funding will be spent in line with the Council's procurement arrangements and the conditions of the grant.

The proposed recommendation will ensure that the grant is spent and the projects delivered within the prescribed timeline and it will enable the Council to work with key partners to support community recovery from the events on 4th August 2024.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To ask Executive to approve the spend of £655,000 grant funding provided by MHCLG to support the recovery of the recent riots that took place in Middlesbrough on Sunday 4th August 2024.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Executive approves the spend outlined in the report below, on the £655,000 grant funding provided by MHCLG to support the recovery of the riots that took place in Middlesbrough on Sunday 4th August 2024.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The Council and its partners established a multi-agency recovery structure with gold and silver recovery groups being set up to work on a plan to support residents and find a way of returning to a state of normality.

- 3.2 The constituents of the gold recovery group include senior representatives from the following organisations: Middlesbrough Council, Thirteen Group, Cleveland Police, Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, Teesside University, Tees Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust, Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency, Probation Service and Cleveland Fire Brigade. This group set the key objectives for silver group along with the 3 key areas of focus for grant funding:

1. Engagement
2. Events within neighbourhoods
3. Youth Provision

- 3.3 It is imperative that the council and its partners work 'with' the community and not do things 'to' them. Therefore, Gold group asked Silver to develop key areas of work that fit into the three key areas of focus for the grant funding. This resulted in the subgroups being established as set out in 3.4 below. Gold then approved the recommendations put forward from silver group as set out in 4.7 in this report. A proportion of the funding will be distributed in the form of grants, direct to community groups to allow them to lead on activities.

- 3.4 The constituents of the silver group include representatives from the following organisations; Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough Council, Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, BME Network, Thirteen Group, Fire Brigade, Teesside University, Local Resilience Forum, Mayors Office, Exec member for Community Safety and the following voluntary and community organisations; MVDA, Streets Ahead, Amal Project, Investing in People and Cultures, Localmotion, Hindu Cultural Centre, Mosques, Caritas and Ubuntu. This group have established the following multi agency subgroups that have had an input into the proposals for spending the £655k grant funding:

- Communications Group
- Young People and engagement
- Community Conversations
- Hate Crime and Community Tensions
- Community Engagement and Participation
- Victims and Perpetrators

3.5 The proposals set out in 4.7 are in line with the conditions of the grant. These grants support a range of projects that will help the town in respect of increasing its level of resilience and community cohesion.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 On Sunday 4th August 2024, Middlesbrough was the focus of a protest originally linked online to an incident in Southport. Protests were planned to take place in a number of other areas across the country. Approximately 400 people attended the protest and marched through the centre of Middlesbrough. The protest led to a riot occurring within the town that lasted late into the evening.

4.2 The riot caused significant damage to property and caused a high level of fear and alarm amongst many citizens who live and work in the affected areas. Over £300,000 of damage was caused to Teesside University buildings alone, multiple streets in the centre of Middlesbrough were targeted with houses and vehicles being damaged. Cars were set on fire and businesses looted. Some residents were at home during the riots with children and families were terrified by the damage to their homes and property. Many residents, particularly those from ethnic minority communities, remain distressed by the violent disorder they witnessed and the fear they experienced at the time.

4.3 The day after the riots Middlesbrough showed its true nature and over 300 volunteers turned up at the entrance to Albert Park to help clean up and show support for those impacted. Many had been out earlier that morning and began the clean up work and begin the repair of those communities that at suffered from the effects of the riot.

4.4 Later that week misinformation spread of a repeat of the riots and businesses, educational establishments and health providers closed their doors and the town emptied in fear. Thankfully this did not transpire.

4.5 MHCLG originally allocated £600,000 to Middlesbrough Council via the CRF. MHCLG said the funding should be used as areas best saw fit, in partnership with local communities. More recently MHCLG has provided an additional £55,000 in revenue funding, bringing the total grant to £655,000.

4.6 In guidance, MHCLG acknowledged that work was required to repair “fractured communities”. Examples of how the money could be spent included:

- To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future
- To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.

MHCLG also said that the funding could be used to empower communities to address the deeper roots of the unrest.

4.7 The CRF is allocative and is 85% revenue, and 15% Capital, to be spent before the end of financial year 2024-25.

4.8 The table below outlines the breakdown of funding.

Activity	Grant
	£
<p>Develop a Community Forum bringing together all community representatives in Middlesbrough – self-sustaining Community Action Group - The group will consist of all key community representatives</p> <p>Allocated to Council Community Development Officers and managed via Council budget: to be spend by 31st March 2025</p> <p>Clear guidelines on what it will be allocated for i.e. room hire, food, tea, coffee, coms etc. Launch event. Funding to be directed under the direction of the engagement and participation group.</p>	10,000
<p>Voluntary and community sector opportunity to map existing assets - Establish current community offer throughout Middlesbrough, identify unmet needs and gaps in delivery. Working with the Neighbourhood Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be some mapping of what is already being done by partners • Community Asset Mapping (LA GIS) • Participation/engagement • Person to map out <p>This will be allocated via grants to be spend by 31st March 2025. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant</p>	30,000
<p>Deliver joint engagement activities and events throughout Middlesbrough via the Neighbourhood model – Voluntary and community sector to be involved in delivering activities in the community.</p> <p>This will be allocated via grants to be committed by 31st March 2025. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant</p>	75,000
<p>Communications – Develop a process for statutory services to use 'trusted voices' within the VCS community to deliver regular clear joint messages to the wider community, promoting cohesion and working together narratives.</p> <p>Allocated to Head of Coms and spend by 31st March 2025</p> <p>Clear guidelines on what it will be allocated for i.e. promotion, publicity, feedback, engagement.</p> <p>Funding to be directed under the direction of the communications group.</p>	20,000

<p>Youth related assertive outreach and centre based activities throughout Middlesbrough. Identify key areas of concern, and individuals, engage young people in the community, develop relationships and signpost young people to existing and new youth related activities. Work 121 with those most disengaged young people and existing initiatives to maximise resources.</p> <p>The £205,000 will be split £48,750 to each of existing providers. (3 via extension to existing contracts and one by exemption) £10,000 for small grants (all will be spent by 31st March 2025. £55,000 Community Cohesion and Resilience Programme Grant will partially fund this initiative. In line with the grant conditions, this resource must be fully spent by 31 March 2025, whilst the Community Recovery Fund can be carried over.</p>	<p>CRF 150,000 CCRP 55,000</p>
<p>Council to employ Community Development focussed posts to work across all services and projects supporting LA/Police/VCS services ensuring a fully joined up approach is embedded, and identify and develop sustainability community opportunities.</p> <p>2 x Community Development Officers to work across the town linking in with the sub groups. Officers also to spend some time with MVDA. This funding will be committed by 31st March 2025 and the post will be on a fixed term contract for 12 months. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant</p>	<p>80,000</p>
<p>Support for grassroot community groups, identify informal groups provide support and resources to develop, advertise and become constituted. Develop Social Action projects - Fund for community members to develop projects to solve problems and improve their local community.</p> <p>This will be allocated via the small grants process and committed by 31st March 2025. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant</p>	<p>30,000</p>
<p>Fund experienced specialist facilitators in Hate rhetoric to develop and deliver Community Conversations throughout Middlesbrough, linked to riots and Community Cohesion</p> <p>Contract – in line with the council’s procurement arrangements Delivery will be February 2025 – March 2025.</p>	<p>20,000</p>
<p>Building resilience in vulnerable communities and members to develop confidence and improve engagement in wider community activities.</p> <p>This will be allocated via grants to be committed by 31st March 2025. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant</p>	<p>50,000</p>
<p>Educational resources</p> <p>Contract – in line with the council’s procurement arrangements</p> <p>#wearemiddlesbrough</p>	<p>45,000</p>
<p>TOTAL REVENUE GRANT</p>	<p>565,000</p>
<p>Invest in environmental equipment to improve aesthetics, related to broken window theory.</p>	<p>40,000</p>

This will be linked to the levelling up capital funding to maximise impact and contracts will be aligned where appropriate via the council’s procurement arrangements. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant.	
Target Hardening reconnaissance and works to the physical environment, design out crime, increase lighting, open up areas. This will be linked to the levelling up capital funding to maximise impact and contracts will be aligned where appropriate via the council’s procurement arrangements. Delivery will be between February 2025 and March 2026 in line with conditions of the grant	50,000
TOTAL CAPITAL GRANT	90,000
TOTAL REVENUE & CAPITAL GRANT	655,000

4.9 As referenced in 4.3, in the immediate aftermath of the disorder in August, people united and showed that the shameful scenes didn’t represent ‘the real Middlesbrough’.

People from all backgrounds came together to support the clean-up effort and express their dismay at what had happened.



Insight from ethnic minority communities however tells us that emotions are still raw. People’s confidence was knocked and families who have lived here for generations have questioned their identity and whether they belong here.

Part of the communications approach as part of the CRF programme will be to use the *We are Middlesbrough* brand in a more consistent manner. The campaign was established in

2021 to change perceptions and celebrate everything positive about the town. Stories about our people and diverse communities have been central to the brand.

The funding will allow us to support and have a stronger connection with a wider range of organisations that bring together people of all backgrounds. Providing a more regular storytelling using an established brand can help us influence people and promote a wider sense of belonging.

5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

5.1 The alternative is to not accept the grant funding, however this is not recommended as the impact is still evident and the grant funding will help key partners to respond to the riots and support the recovery.

6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	£600,000 Community Recovery Fund has been received. £90,000 of this being capital and £510,000 revenue. The conditions do not stipulate a timescale for expenditure but MHCLG have provided confirmation by email that the funding can be carried over providing the expenditure has been committed. They have also stated that this grant will be subject to audit on completion. In addition, £55,000 revenue funding has been received from the Community Cohesion Resilience Programme. The conditions do state clearly that the expenditure must be incurred and has left the Council's bank account by 31 March 2025
Legal	Legal serviced have been consulted in the development of this report.
Risk	The funding must be spent by the end of 2024/25. Plans have been developed to ensure this is met and the risk is mitigated.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	This project will work with all sections of Middlesbrough including the victims, perpetrators and the wider community.
Climate Change / Environmental	The Council's policies will be taken into consideration in the development of the project
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	This project will include a substantial element of youth related activity and the project will engage with children services department in the development of the project.
Data Protection	No personal data will be shared or obtained during this project.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Delivery plan to be finalised relating to the	Neighbourhood Manager (South)	December 2024

areas of spend with key timescales for start and ending		
Procurement and commissioning team involved in the delivery of the project	Market Management Officer	March 2025

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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