

Celebrations, Events and Heritage 2020/21**£30,000**

In line with previous years it is proposed a 'core activities' programme is developed to support events identified by Area Committee members as important to the local area. This will allow a planned approach to events and activities which take place each year.

The project will provide a central resource for those events, celebrations and heritage activities identified by elected members and Area Committee partners as important to the local area and will be developed/delivered in partnership with the VCS Network and community organisations between January 2021 and March 2022. Funding will provide for a range of activities and costs associated with planned and historic events and include:

- Traffic management fees for Remembrance Parades
- Traffic management fees for Miners Gala Parades
- Contribution to live Christmas lights switch on events and Christmas activities arranged by community groups within the Coalfield
- Contribution to themed Summer Activities
- Themed celebrations to mark various historic and local events
- Celebration and preservation of local heritage

The budget will also fund heritage activities and other events developed by the Neighbourhoods and Community Board in partnership with local organisations. The Area Community Officer will manage and co-ordinate the project under the direction of the Board and Area Committee.

Recommendation: Approve. Meets Area Priority 'Celebrating Local Events and Heritage'

Wellbeing in the Community**£8,000**

MBC Arts Wellbeing has the opportunity to apply for a grant of £40,000 to deliver an arts, wellbeing, and activity project across the whole of the Coalfield area. The fund is a social prescribing fund called Thriving Communities, administered by Arts Council England. The aims are to improve the range and reach of social prescribing activities in the community, especially amongst those most impacted by Covid-19, and those living with health inequalities. The outcomes are to increase social connectivity, and connect people in need to local activities.

MBC Arts Wellbeing has established links with local NHS services, local GPs, and has developed pro-active partnerships and close working knowledge of the community support provision in Coalfield. They have delivered community activity, targeting those who are not accessing existing current services and are hard to reach, engaging with them over the short to medium term to develop social connectedness, personal resilience, increase personal wellbeing, and ultimately to refer through to local longer term provision such as helping those we connect with get into volunteering, local service / community activity groups, and more. The project is for a 12 month period from March 2021 and will be delivered entirely in the Coalfield area should it be successful. A requirement of the grant is to provide match funding, of 20% of the value of the grant, from another source.

This is an opportunity to lever in external funds to the area, adding value to Area Budgets and local delivery. Should Area Committee approve this request, funding will only be released if the application to Thriving Communities is successful. Full detail of the project will be presented to Area Committee prior to commencement.

Recommendation: Approve. Meets Area Priority 'Support the voluntary and community sector to provide additional services within the local community'