

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Informing our approach to fairness

Name of proposal	The Newcastle Fund
Date of assessment	May 2019
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Planned review date	June 2019

Version control

Version	1
Date	May 2019
Replaces version	-

This is the ninth year of austerity and Government-imposed funding cuts. Coupled with unfunded cost pressures, like increasing demand for services and inflation, this has resulted in us needing to achieve savings of £267 million over the last eight years with a further 60 million in the next three years.

The following proposal relates to savings for The Newcastle Fund in 2020-21 and is put forward within the context of, and should be read in conjunction with, ["Shaping our future together: our medium-term plan 2019-20 to 2021-22"](#) which explains how we are responding to the continuing financial challenge, setting out our plans for the next three years.

Section A: Current service

1. What does the service / function / policy do?

The Newcastle Fund is the Council's primary discretionary grant fund for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.

The Fund was introduced in 2011 and replaced a number of different grant aid programmes across the Council. The Fund provides grants to VCS organisations based in the City for project specific running or core costs with an organisation's project activity taking place in Newcastle for the benefit of Newcastle residents.

Since its introduction, the Newcastle Fund has allocated grant funding through the annual bidding process totalling approximately £15m with over 400 projects supported. This is discretionary grant aid and does not include funding provided to the VCS through ring-fenced arrangements or funding provided by the Council as part of contract and commissioning arrangements.

The Fund's statement of core purpose adopted following a period of consultation and engagement during 2016 and 2017 is as follows:

"The Newcastle Fund exists to support the voluntary and community sector to harness the energy and assets that exist in our communities and unlock (often untapped) potential to improve wellbeing and reduce inequalities."

To this aim we want VCS organisations to use the skills, local knowledge and expertise of individuals and communities to make positive and lasting changes which result in the following priority outcome areas:

- Building community resilience
- Improving individuals' resilience
- Improving mental and emotional wellbeing

Within this, the Fund's direction of travel has seen a greater focus on asset-based ways of working. By assets we mean "any factor or resource which enhances the ability of individuals, communities and populations to maintain and sustain health and wellbeing. These assets can operate at the level of the individual, family or community as protective and promoting factors to buffer against life's stresses." (Source: Morgan, 2009 cited in I&DeA, 2010).

You can find out more about The Newcastle Fund grant awards since 2011, as well as our Annual Reports for 2016-17 and 2017-18, at [The Newcastle Fund / Newcastle City Council](#).

2. Who do you deliver this service for?

The Newcastle Fund aims to support Newcastle residents to build sustainable community resources with project beneficiaries being some of the most vulnerable residents in the City. To do this, it grants on an annual basis financial support to VCS organisations to pilot, expand or diversify important community activity. Eligible organisations can apply for up to £50,000 per year for core and project delivery costs, over 1, 2 or 3 years and must be a constituted VCS organisation, a registered charity or a social enterprise.

2019/20 awards

84 applications were received in Round 9 resulting in 33 project awards totalling £704,675 for the period 2019-20. 5 existing projects also received funding in this period totalling £106,520 from commitments made in Round 8

Projects awarded in Round 9 represented diverse activity types and tackled a broad range of issues affecting people in the city. Approximately one third of Round 9 projects defined children and young people as primary beneficiary group for their activity. There also continues to be a strong correlation between Newcastle's most deprived areas and greater numbers of projects and beneficiaries. The majority of grant funded monies in Round 9 were awarded to micro or small SMEs.

3. Do you have any statutory requirements?

No. The Newcastle Fund is the Council's 'discretionary grant aid programme' and is not a statutory service. The Council is part of a locally agreed Newcastle Compact, an agreement between the Public Sector and VCS in the city which is overseen by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group (VSLG), a strategic group comprising VCS organisations, Newcastle City Council and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group representatives. The Newcastle Compact identifies a set of shared principles for working together and records the commitment of all parties to constructive, cooperative relationships with each other, including:

- Allocating resources efficiently
- Promoting equality, community cohesion and social inclusion
- Consulting and involving the VCS, service users and governance bodies
- Promoting and supporting volunteering
- Managing changes to services

The Newcastle Fund is committed to following these principles and promoting them to applicant organisations. For more information on the Newcastle Compact, visit [The Newcastle Compact | Newcastle City Council](#).

4. How much do you spend on this service?

Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net budget	Capital projects
The budget information provided below relates to overall Newcastle Fund budget for 2019/20 which supports: grant allocations made through bidding rounds; ring-fenced funding allocated for domestic violence and abuse, open access advice services, and cultural and community events; and funding for <i>Small Pledges for Big Impact</i> crowd funding.			
£1,400,000	£0	£1,400,000	£0

5. What workforce delivers this service?

Posts	FTEs	Comments
-	-	-

Project activity is delivered by third party providers from the voluntary and community sector.

Section B: Change proposal

1. What is the proposal to change the service?

As a direct result of the disproportionate cuts from Government which are more than twice the national average, the Council must save a further £60 million in the period between 2019-20 to 2021-2022. This proposal represents the Newcastle Fund's contribution to these budget cuts, reducing its annual budget by £200,000 from £1.4m to £1.2m in 2020-21. This is set out in ["Shaping our future together: our medium-term plan 2019-20 to 2021-22"](#).

From the £1.2m funding available, £500,000 will be available for Round 10 grant awards; the remaining funding will be used to support the ring-fenced arrangements as follows:

- funding already committed from previous rounds,
- *The Newcastle Fund – Small Pledges for Big Impact* as part of Tyneside Crowd which enables the Newcastle Fund to pledge small funds to support community projects that have already demonstrated community buy-in and responds to feedback that identifies the need for small amounts of funding to be speedily accessed.
- special arrangements made in previous rounds for Newcastle Fund ring-fenced monies to be allocated to domestic violence and abuse, open access advice services, and cultural and community events subject to the Council's usual financial and procurement regulations.

The total value of these arrangements in 2020-21 will be met within the reduced budget £1.2m. In making £500,000 available for new grants in Round 10, we have maintained some flexibility to respond to any presenting in year risks or issues.

Despite these pressures we want to make sure the most vulnerable in our communities are protected and we recognise that the Newcastle Fund has an important role to play in increasing community wealth and wellbeing. By continuing our commitment, to provide grant investment in the community and voluntary sector, within a reduced budget, we seek to continue to make a difference to the city's most vulnerable people. Our yearly analysis of funds awarded gives us a clear picture of demographic and geographic scope, issues tackled, and activities delivered. Despite a reduction in available funds we will commit to maintaining the diversity of its reach and impact.

This proposed change to the available expenditure may impact upon the number of organisations that Newcastle Fund is able to support in 2020-21 and could potentially impact on some VCS organisations sustainability, whilst others may require additional support to secure alternative funding or generate income.

We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by keeping an open dialogue with other local and regional funders, sharing information to support their funding activity and to maximise the benefit of the collective resources across the city. We will also continue to work with Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service who deliver infrastructure support to the VCS to ensure the provision of information and guidance to VCS organisations in Newcastle, to build their

sustainability and resilience. A key focus for the Newcastle Fund is the development of asset-based ways of working to achieve social value and grow sustainable community benefits. By supporting VCS organisations to recognise and grow the talents of local people, they can harness the power of the city's assets for maximum social impact within the financial investment available.

We will publish an updated Newcastle Fund Prospectus to coincide with the launch of Round 10 at the City's Funders' Fair which will take place on 6 June 2019. The Prospectus will continue to explain the aims of the Fund, the outcomes it is seeking to achieve, how we measure impact, as well as important information on how to apply and what VCS organisations should consider when planning their applications.

We will continue to produce an Annual Report showing the achievements of the Fund, with information on the variety and scope of funded projects, the outcomes and reach of the projects delivered, and the impact they have across the city and our communities.

2. What evidence has informed this proposal?

Information source	What has this told you?
"Shaping our future together: our medium-term plan 2019-20 to 2021-22"	The Council's response to the continuing financial challenge, setting out our plans for the three years 2019-20 to 2021-22
Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service – Do we need to talk? June 2018	Insight to the funding challenges facing VCS
Newcastle Fund Annual Report 2016-17 and 2017-18	Analysis on grants awarded /beneficiary areas to inform the proposal Key themes: The majority of Newcastle Fund monies continues to be awarded to micro or small SMEs, although this was slightly lower in 2017-18 at 87%, compared to 92% in 2016-17 There continues to be a strong correlation between our deprived areas and Newcastle Fund beneficiaries There continues to be a strong focus on inequality, with a significant number of projects being for 'communities of interest' as well as 'communities of place' Volunteering continues to play a key role, combining developing skills and improving employment prospects with improving support of Newcastle residents There are opportunities to explore greater collaboration between projects – particularly

	for those projects focussed on the same “communities of interest”			
The Newcastle Fund Round 9 Prospectus (2019-20)	Information on the aims of the Fund and the priority outcomes it is seeking to achieve			
3. How much will you spend on this service?				
	Gross expenditure	Gross income	Net budget	Capital projects
The budget information provided below relates to overall Newcastle Fund budget for 2020/21 which supports: grant allocations made through bidding rounds; ring-fenced funding allocated for domestic violence and abuse, open access advice services and cultural events; and funding for <i>Small Pledges for Big Impact</i> crowd funding				
2020-21	£1,200,000	£0	£1,200,000	£0
4. What will the net savings be of this proposal?				
	Gross Saving	Implementation Cost	Net Saving	
2020-21	£200,000	£0	£200,000	
5. What impact will this have on the workforce?				
	No. FTEs	% workforce	Project activity is delivered by third party providers from the voluntary and community sector. We are only able to quantify the impact on the Council workforce we employ. We recognise that there is also the potential for these proposals to impact on the workforce of partners and service providers	
2020-21	-	-		

6. Who have you engaged with about this proposal?

Date	Who	No. of people	Main issues raised
November 2018 - January 2019 – consultation response to 2019‘Shaping our future together: Our medium-term plan 2019-20 to 2021-22’.	Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS)	VCS representative organisation	For some organisations, the Newcastle Fund provides core funding to keep them going and enables them to make applications to other sources of funding.
November 2018 - January 2019 – consultation response to 2019‘Shaping our future together: Our medium-term plan 2019-20 to 2021-22’.	Voluntary Sector Liaison Group (VSLG) Strategic group consisting of voluntary and community sector members, Council and Clinical Commissioning Group.	-	Expressed concerned about possible funding reductions to the Newcastle Fund
March 2019	Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS)	VCS representative organisation	Newcastle Fund reduction in budget as agenda item. Recognised budget consultation as valuable opportunity to respond to proposed budget reduction.

7. What are the potential impacts of the proposal?			
Specific group / subject	Impact (actual / potential disadvantage, beneficial outcome or none)	Detail of impact	How will you address or mitigate disadvantage?
People with protected characteristics			
Age	Potential disadvantage	Current awards 2019/20 serve a broad age range with some concentration on children and young people projects. A reduction in Newcastle Fund expenditure will impact upon the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020-21 and potentially impact some VCS organisations sustainability and beneficiary numbers	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also our VCS infrastructure support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Disability	Potential disadvantage	The Newcastle Fund historically has funded this beneficiary group with 5 projects in 2019/20 self-defining people with a learning or physical disability as their primary beneficiary group. A reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21.	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them

			to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Sex	Potential disadvantage	The Newcastle Fund historically has funded 3 projects in 2019/20 self-defining women and girls as their primary beneficiary group. A reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21.	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Based on our research, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a disproportionate negative impact on people who are married or are in civil partnerships	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Based on our research, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a disproportionate negative impact on people who are pregnant and on maternity.	N/A
Race and ethnicity	Potential disadvantage	The Newcastle Fund historically has funded this beneficiary group with 4 projects in 2019/20 self-defining	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders,

		Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers as their primary beneficiary group. A reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21.	information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Religion and belief	None	Based on our research, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a disproportionate negative impact on people because of their religion of belief	N/A
Sexual orientation	Potential disadvantage	The Newcastle Fund historically has funded this beneficiary group with 1 project in 2019/20 self-defining LGBTQ as their primary beneficiary group. A reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21.	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise

Gender reassignment	None	Based on our research, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a disproportionate negative impact on people because of gender reassignment	N/A
Other potential impacts			
People vulnerable to socio-economic impacts	Potential disadvantage	There is a strong correlation between our most deprived areas in the City and Newcastle Fund beneficiaries with 4 projects in 2019/20 self-defining people in destitution or poverty as their primary beneficiary group. A reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21 leading to people on low incomes being further disadvantaged.	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Businesses	Potential disadvantage	The Newcastle Fund continues to play a key role in supporting a dynamic VCS in Newcastle, helping to build on communities' and residents' skills and strengths. A reduction in Newcastle Fund expenditure may impact upon the number of organisations the	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support

		Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020-21	of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Geography	Potential disadvantage	There is a strong correlation linking beneficiaries accessing organisational support through Newcastle Fund activity to those areas within the city that experience the greatest deprivation: a reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21 leading to people on low incomes being further disadvantaged	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Community cohesion	Potential disadvantage	The Newcastle Fund continues to strongly focus on inequality with project activity linked to 'communities of interest as well as 'communities of place; a reduction in Newcastle Fund expenditure may impact on the number of projects we are able to fund in support of our residents and communities coming together.	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable

			through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Community safety	Potential disadvantage	A reduction in budget may impact on the number of organisations the Newcastle Fund is able to fund in 2020/21 who work directly in support of community safety.	We will seek to mitigate the impact of this proposal by continuing to share with other funders, information on the marketplace and directing organisations to other sources of funding. We will also utilise our VCS infrastructure Support contract to provide, information and guidance in support of VCS organisations helping them to be more resilient and sustainable through knowledge, skills sharing and providing access to a range of professional skills and expertise
Environment and air quality	None	Based on our research, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a disproportionate negative impact on environment and air quality	N/A