



Somerset County Council

**Improving Lives to Prevent Demand
Fund**

2019-2020

March 2019

Introduction to the Scheme

This document provides detail on the running of the Somerset County Council Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund.

The scheme provides an opportunity for proposals to be developed by Service areas in discussion with the relevant Cabinet member and must focus on preventing needs/or the escalation need in order to reduce future demands on Somerset County Council services.

This fund has also been designed to provide support for the local delivery of the Somerset County Council 2019-2020 priorities.

In line with all council expenditure, it is expected that value for money is achieved from this funding and bids, if approved, must be spent on the purpose it was allocated.

These guidance notes set out how the scheme is to be administered, the necessary controls and governance arrangements, and clear practical advice to officers on which schemes can be supported and how to access the funding.

Proposal will be considered throughout the year (or once fund has been spent). Further details on the approach can be found below.

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Leader of the Council

Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund Guidance Notes 2019-20

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Section 1: What does the scheme aim to do?

- 1.1 The Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund enables SCC officers to put forward bids that will prevent need/or the escalation of need in order to reduce future demand on SCC service. The purpose of the fund is to empower services and teams to take responsibility for their areas in modernising their approach to how they enable a preventative culture/model which reduces demand on SCC that demonstrates a financial pay-back over a three-year period.
- 1.2 This funding will need to support the delivery of the Somerset County Council 2019-20 Business Plan as seen below:
- A thriving and productive county that is ambitious, confident and focused on improving people's lives
 - A county of resilient, well-connected and compassionate communities working to reduce inequalities
 - A county where all partners actively work together for the benefit of our residents, communities and businesses and the environment in which we all live
 - A county that provides you with right information, advice and guidance to help you help yourself and targets support to those who need it most
- 1.3 Appendix 1 is the expression of Interest form, which need to be completed electronically and will be considered by Director of Public Health, SLT, Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing.

Section 2: What projects will the fund support?

- 2.1 The fund will support projects which:
- prevent or reduce demand for SCC services, enabling the initial funding level to be saved through reduced costs within a three year period.
- And/or
- Redesign SCC services or processes to improve lives, enabling the initial funding level to be saved through increased efficiency and productivity within a three-year period.
- And/or
- Improve Lives for Somerset residents and bring additional external money into the county which exceeds the initial investment within three years.

2.2 Proposals will be given greater weighting if they:

- Demonstrate innovative thinking
- evidence increased prevention value
- focus benefits towards particularly vulnerable groups or have a strong focus on addressing health and social inequalities.

2.3 Bids can be for as much or as little as necessary. Expressions of interest will be accepted through the year (or until funds have been spent). If your initial proposal is approved, you will then be required to develop a Full Business Case which, depending on value, will follow the normal governance route for Somerset County Council's decisions.

2.4 The fundamental principle is that the Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund should focus on preventing need/or the escalation of need. Officers are encouraged to work jointly across the organisation as well collaboratively with partner organisations and communities (e.g. with other Local Authorities, Police and NHS) to create greater scale of change and, where possible, encourage any matched funding opportunities. In all cases, the proposals must be for projects benefitting Somerset residents.

2.3 A record of expenditure against the fund will be maintained and progress on the projects will be tracked through the Transforming SCC to Improve Lives Programme. Progress against the projects will be subject to scrutiny through the appropriate scrutiny committee.

You can



- Bids can be for as much or as little as necessary.
- Support projects inside your service area or across the authority
- Consult partners/other services to guard against duplication and double funding
- Attract and secure matched funding or third-party sponsorship

You can't



- Put forward a project in which you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Personal or Prejudicial Interest - unless you clearly set out the details of your interest in your application
- Support a project that is 'ultra vires' for the County or is contrary to Council policy (see below)
- Commit to on-going funding beyond use of this grant which could leave an on-going liability
- Use the budget for making hospitality payments
- Use the fund to replace cuts/savings

that are about to be or have already been taken

Note: The Improving Lives to Prevent Demand fund is public money and the same criteria of ensuring Value for Money and appropriate accountability will apply in the same way as all other County expenditure. All spending will be subject to County Policy, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Note: Wellbeing powers

- The General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011 enables every local authority to do anything which an individual may generally do. Since the Act came into effect councils no longer need to demonstrate that their activities are of direct benefit to the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area. The scheme will also contribute to delivery of the Council's responsibilities under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- This has direct implications on partnership working as local authorities are permitted to work with partners to deliver services promoting or improving the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of their area, even if the services are not normally provided by local authorities (provided they are not prohibited by statute).

Section 3: The Process?

- 3.1 Initial expressions of interest in the fund are put forward using the form in Appendix A. Officers must engage with their Finance Officer from the outset during this process. Initial expressions of interest must have the support of the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors prior to being submitted. Forms need to be completed electronically and sent to transformingscctoimprovelives@somerset.gov.uk.
- 3.2 Initial expressions of interest will then be considered by Director of Public Health, SLT, Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing. Initial expressions of interest will be considered throughout the year until the funding is used.
- 3.3 Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the criteria outlined in section 2 and those that are considered most suitable for this funding will be asked to develop the proposal up to a full business case.
- 3.4 Full Business Cases must have the support of relevant Cabinet Members and Shadow Cabinet Members and must be validated and signed off by a Finance Officer prior to submission. They will be considered by the Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG), before then being considered by SLT, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing. SCG may provide feedback to help strengthen the Business Case.
- 3.5 Proposals that are agreed for funding will be required to progress through the Council's normal decision making processes and will be subject to scrutiny through the most relevant committee.

- 3.6 Progress against the project and the key deliverables will be monitored through the Transforming SCC to Improve Lives Programme and progress will be reported to SLT and Cabinet as part of the overall programme.

Section 4: What about publicity for the Fund?

- 4.1 Once projects have been approved, Officers are encouraged to obtain appropriate publicity for the projects that have been supported in collaboration with the appropriate Cabinet Members. The publicity should make it clear that the project has received funding from the County Council's Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund and should refer to the proposed outcomes being supported.
- 4.2 In the event that an election or by-election is called, officers will ensure that no council facilities are used to publicise expenditure from this fund during the Purdah period, in line with normal Purdah advice that would be issued by the council to officers at this time.
- 4.3 Once funds have been made to successful applicants, it is incumbent on lead Officers to ensure that the grant proceeds have been used, in full, for the specified purpose.

**IMPROVING LIVES TO PREVENT DEMAND
FUND 2019 - 20
Initial Expressions of Interest Form**



PLEASE READ THE 'IMPROVING LIVES TO PREVENT DEMAND FUND GUIDANCE NOTES 2019-20' BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

Title of Proposal:
Lead Member:
Lead Manager/Director:
Finance Lead/Service Manager:
SCC Service Areas involved:
Amount requested:

Purpose of Application (Please be specific as this helps to ensure that any grant applied for, is for the intended purpose. If necessary please attach a separate summary)
Please provide an outline of what are you trying to achieve and how you are going to go about it?
What are the indicative timescales for implementation/delivery of your idea?
What is the benefit to SCC? (How will this proposal prevent future demand for SCC services?)
How will we know it works?
When will SCC see the benefits?

Even at this early stage, what are the anticipated costs and how will this proposal bring savings/additional income within three years?

Is there any further information that you would like to provide?

Which Somerset priority is met?

- Thriving and productive county Resilient, well-connected communities
- Partners activity working together Information, advice and guidance

Which Transforming SCC to Improve Lives themes are met?

- Commission for the future Prevention
- Helping people to help themselves

Financial information to be validated by Finance Service Manager.

**Amount applied for from Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund
£.**

Please provide a breakdown of how money is to be spent: (or attach details)

Does this scheme have any supporting funding available? Yes/No (If yes, provide details)

Please return completed form to: TransformingSCCtoimprovelives@somerset.gov.uk

For office use only

Date logged in:

Date approved by member:

Date payment processed: