

North Tyneside Council
Report to Jacqueline Laughton,
Assistant Chief Executive
Date: 9th February 2022

Officer Delegated Power Report

Title of Report: The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) Grant Agreement

Report from Service Area: **Corporate Strategy and Customer Service**

Responsible Officers: **Vicki Nixon, Senior Manager, Participation, Advocacy and Engagement**

Wards affected: **All**

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The Authority wishes to make a one-off grant payment of £125,135 to be paid from the Poverty Intervention Fund (PIF) to The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT). The grant will enable TBBT to set up and operate its innovative mobile food pantry model in North Tyneside

The TBBT model will give residents in more deprived areas access to a week's worth of food shopping for only £7.50, saving the average customer £26.50 per month. The model is self-sustaining and has been tried and tested with success in other local areas, some within the region. The overall goal is not only to reduce the impact of poverty, but also to prevent further escalation of food poverty within North Tyneside by making the income of residents' who are struggling stretch further.

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Assistant Chief Executive, exercising delegated powers under General Delegation 19,

- (1) Agrees to make a one-off grant payment of £125,135 to The Bread and Butter Thing, and
- (2) Enters into a grant funding agreement with The Bread and Butter Thing to set up and operate a mobile food pantry service in the borough of North Tyneside

1.3 Forward Plan:

The implementation of TBBT in North Tyneside is not a key decision and is therefore not included in the forward plan.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

1.4.1 This report relates to the following priority in the 2021-25 Our North Tyneside Plan:

- We will tackle health and socio-economic inequalities across the borough including through our Poverty Intervention Fund to tackle food poverty.

1.4.2 TBBT will also be a key deliverable for the Health and Well Being Board's joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy "Equally Well: A healthier, fairer future for North Tyneside 2021-2025 in relation to its commitment to "ensuring a healthy standard of living for all".

1.5 **Information:**

TBBT is a registered charity (number 1169383) based in Manchester which has pioneered a unique food pantry model. TBBT makes life more affordable for people on a low income, builds stronger communities and reduces food waste using an innovative and self-sustaining approach to the redistribution of surplus food and food items.

The model is based on a streamlined way of working that maximises resource and minimises waste creating an affordable food service that is simple and cost-effective. As a result, the work has a transformative effect, helping to make people's lives more affordable while encouraging them to eat better.

In exchange for a one of grant payment TBBT will operate within North Tyneside for a minimum of three years with the intention that it will continue to operate for an indefinite number of years. The cost of £125,135 pays for the first years' set up cost. These costs for the first year should enable the successful operation of the model and set the foundation for the models' sustainability into future years. This is proportionate as during the first year and in years thereafter, the model can provide 400 parcels (which are a weeks' worth of food for one family of four) each week, across 5 locations in the borough. This has a direct impact on achieving the policy objectives outlined above. For families, average weekly spend on food falls by £26.50 when using TBBT.

Research has identified that a gap in food provision exists in North Tyneside. On one hand we have crisis provision, by which we mean organisations who offer residents parcels of food or hot meals free of charge when they are in severe financial hardship. On the other hand, we have supermarkets, accessible only to those who can afford the luxury of choice. There is very little in between these two extremes, despite there being many residents living somewhere in the middle of both polarities. For the Community and Voluntary Sector, groups offering crisis provision will be assisted because demand will be reduced, meaning that they may be able to expand their provision or refocus on their objectives rather than relentlessly and unsustainably providing free food and/or meals to the growing number of people who are in receipt of their support.

TBBT plugs the gap in provision to provide an important safety net for those who may be on the brink of food poverty, unable to sustain the cost of supermarket food, while also offering an equally important step-up from those in receipt of crisis provision. It will simultaneously be conducive to the high-priority environmental policy objectives as it is redistributing large quantities of food waste.

In plugging this gap, TBBT will reduce both health and socioeconomic inequalities by providing low-cost and nutritious food and making life more affordable for users who are likely to be on a low income and live in North Tyneside's most deprived areas, based on IMD scores and numbers of free school meal entitlement.

1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration:

Option 1

To approve the recommendation set out at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

To reject some or all of the recommendations set out at Paragraph of this report.1.2 contained within this report

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

To fill a gap in provision in North Tyneside for individuals who are exiting acute food poverty or at risk of entering food poverty by providing an additional service to support families to access affordable food.

1.8 Appendices:

None

1.9 Contact officers:

Jessica Madden - Policy Officer (Equality) Policy, Performance and Research - (0191) 643 1597

Lydia Ruddick – NGDP Management Trainee – lydia.ruddick@northtyneside.gov.uk

Kerry Nesbitt – Social Inclusion Officer, Participation, Advocacy and Engagement - (0191) 643 4051

1.10 Background information:

N/A

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

2.1.1 The funding for TBBT project will come from the Poverty Intervention Fund. Payments will be made as below.

Amount of Grant Payable	Date of Payment
£70,607	Within 10 Working Days of the Commencement Date
£18,176	1st April 2022
£18,176	1st July 2022
£18,176	1st October 2022
Total £125,135	

2.2 Legal

The Authority has completed a subsidy control assessment and is satisfied that payment of the grant to TBBT comes within the provisions of the Subsidy Control Rules. The grant agreement

with TBBT will be on terms agreed by the Director of Law and Governance and complies with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Cabinet Members have approved the project with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing taking the lead in relation to the use of the Poverty Intervention Fund for this purpose. All Elected Members were informed of the plan to introduce TBBT to North Tyneside. The Senior Leadership Team have been involved throughout the development of the project. Finance, legal, procurement, engagement and social inclusion team senior officers have been involved in a project delivery team to oversee implementation of the initiative.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Voluntary and community sector organisations and groups have been engaged with around the introduction of TBBT to North Tyneside. This included an invitation to information sessions to learn about the project and to register an interest in being directly involved.

2.4 Human rights

2.4.1 There are no Human Rights issues arising from this report.

2.5 Equality and diversity

2.5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the project and will be regularly reviewed in line with good practice. Any issues identified will be addressed via the EIA's action plan in order to eliminate or reduce potential or actual equality impacts.

2.6 Risk management

2.6.1 A risk register has been developed and is monitored by the project delivery team.

2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 The food distributed by TBBT is food that would have otherwise gone to waste, a substantial amount of which would have ended up in landfill. The kg of food distributed each week in North Tyneside can be calculated and recognised as part of the Authorities commitment to reducing its environmental impact.