**Background**

Big local is a national 10-year programme funded by the National Lottery and its aim is to achieve lasting change in 150 areas in England. It enables local people to enable and act on their own needs to make their areas a better place to live, now and in the future. To do this

Gaunless Gateway made the decision that everyone who lives or works in our Big Local Partnership Area will automatically be a member of the partnership. We now call our “Partnership Board” our Partnership Decision Making Group which works within the Local Trust Guidance of being a group of at least eight people who guide the overall direction of Big Local in our area. We also agreed that at least 60% of our Decision Makers would be people who live within our Big Local area. We are responsible for agreeing a shared vision, creating our Big Local plan, overseeing its delivery, collecting evidence to show how the plan is progressing, and reviewing the plan and Decision-Making Group to make sure everything is working in the best way possible.

We believe the partnership is a way for people locally to get involved and contribute to decisions about how their area can be improved and as decision makers we are committed to ensure we operate in an open and collaborative manner with our partners. To do this we have employed a Community Development Lead who engages with local individuals and groups to support their development and hear their ideas. We also have a Partnership Support Assistant/Volunteer Broker to ensure that local people can get involved with local developments gaining skills and more say in what is happening in their communities. We think this also makes us easier to be contacted by local people.

We also believe in supporting local developments such as social enterprises and community groups, so we give out grants and want to hear from people who have great ideas for our area and want to make a difference. Of course we do not have ALL the answers but we do have some good ideas which we check out with our partnership members. We will also take advice from organisations who have more knowledge than us and we attend learning events provided by the Local Trust both regionally and nationally.

We are NOT your representatives (that is the job of the local councillors) but we are people like you who live in and care about our area – this makes us Representative OF our Big Local Partnership Area and so that it is a genuinely local, resident and volunteer-led programme.

We do not have a magic wand but by working with local people and local organisations, by having decisions made by local people, we think we are making our area stronger by using local skills and developing new skills. Everything that Gaunless Gateway Big Local does is aimed at and measured against the 4 Big Local Outcomes.

* Communities will be better able to identify local needs and act in response to them.
* People will have increased skills and confidence, so they will continue to identify and respond to the needs in the future.
* The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
* People will feel that their area is an even better place to live

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|  | What the Decision Maker’s do |
| **1** | Define our purpose, direction and priorities: by bringing together our partnership’s views and setting out purpose, direction and priorities through our agreed Big Local Plan. Within our plan we will prioritise and review the issues that are raised based on our local understanding of issues, experience and knowledge as well as our ongoing evaluation of the projects delivered on our behalf. |
| **2.** | Make overall decisions about how Big Local will work in our area underpinned by an open decision-making structure and agreed policies, which includes recording and communicating how decisions are made. N.B. We do not manage the projects we fund but they have to pass through a process and fit our agreed outcomes. |
| **3.** | Ensure Big Local is resident-led and that people across the Big Local area have a genuine and continuing opportunity to be involved by encouraging a range of people in our area to be involved, in a thoughtful, inclusive, open and meaningful way. |
| **4.** | Decide how we will use our £1m through discussion and evidence-based proposals for projects which will improve the lives of local people meeting the 4 Big Local Outcomes |
| **5.** | Review our Big Local Plan to create follow-on plans for future years and agree annual work plans and budgets, responding to any local changes as a flexible, innovative organisation. |
| **6.** | Connect with local organisations, businesses, public agencies, councillors and others who can deliver activities and help make Big Local a success. Encourage differing points of view, collaboration and consensus building – aiming to create co-operative rather than competitive relationships and future sustainability of developments. |
| **7.** | Ensure compliance with our memorandum of understanding and other agreed policies and guidance. Managing any conflicts of interest effectively and reporting any potential misuse of funds to Local Trust, working closely with our locally trusted organisation(s) |
| **8.** | Work with our Big Local Rep and our agreed delivery organisations to achieve the vision we have set for our Big Local area. behave in line with Big Local values and ethos, as well as the locally agreed code of conduct and governing arrangements |
| **9.** | Participate in Local Trust Reviews as well as regularly monitoring and reviewing projects, policies and procedures and well as the Decision-Making Groups own performance. |
| **10.** | Represent the Partnership at other networks and meetings as agreed. Promoting and championing the Big Local Partnership purpose and how it differs from other organisations. |

We work to ensure:

* **continuous improvement of local ability to lead the programme**
* **the establishment of an accountable local partnership, in which the decision makers are GGBL residents**
* **longer term changes in the area**
* **the building of local people’s skills and confidence**
* **sharing and learning in the area and with other Big Local areas**
* **a programme which is flexible and realistic**
* **a programme which is additional to mainstream public money**

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| **Name** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Address** | | |  | | | | | | | | Post Code |  | |
| **Telephone Contact No.** | | |  | | | **Email** | | |  | | | | |
| The area I feel I’m most representative of is (please tick): | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cockton Hill |  | Henknowle | |  | Woodhouse/Tindale | |  | St. Helen Auckland | |  | West Auckland | |  |
| **Please tell us about yourself:** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Please tell us what you love about your area and why you would like to get involved.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **What experiences and qualities will you bring to the roles of Decision Making Group** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

I confirm that I am happy to be contacted about my application and I give my permission to you to keep my personal details in accordance with GDPR regulations. Further, I confirm I am over 18 years of age.

Signed ………………………………………. Date …………………………………