

# Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

10am, Tuesday 2 August 2016

## Community Grants Fund – Update Report

<b>Item number</b>	8.3
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Routine
<b>Wards</b>	All

### Executive summary

---

Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs), as the local expression of Edinburgh's approach to community planning, provide an effective means of strengthening the local democratic process by providing opportunities for local people to have a say about services and influence decision making.

The devolved NP Community Grants Fund (CGF) aims to encourage small scale activity which benefits local communities and supports the implementation of the NP Local Community Plans. Local constituted groups can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 for a project which demonstrates community benefit. Each NP manages the fund according to local structures and priorities but all NPs are using the Council's approved CGF criteria, standard application form and Council Funding Conditions.

This report provides an update on the 2014/15 and 2015/16 budget allocations and an analysis of the CGF grant spend. In addition, details of the further development of the Community Funding Support Programme are provided.

### Links

---

<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<a href="#">P33</a>
<b>Council priorities</b>	<a href="#">CP4</a>
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO4</a>

## Community Grants Fund – Update Report

### 1. Recommendations

---

It is recommended that the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee:

- 1.1 notes the details of the Community Grants Fund, number of grants awarded across the NPs in 2014/15 and 2015/16 and the analysis of awards across themes;
- 1.2 notes the further development of the Community Funding Support Programme;
- 1.3 agrees to refer this report to the Neighbourhood Partnerships; and
- 1.4 agrees to receive an annual report on the Community Grants Fund.

### 2. Background

---

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) Community Grants Fund (CGF) is a small grants scheme provided by the Council. The CGF uses the Council's standard application form, a set of approved criteria and adheres to the Council's approved Funding Conditions for grant aided organisations. Local decision making arrangements have evolved since the CGF was delegated to NPs but the core criteria and the application process are unchanged. The total fund for each financial year is split across twelve NPs and is allocated by population.
- 2.2 The fund can provide grants of up to £5,000 to constituted voluntary and community groups undertaking projects which benefit local communities and support the work of NPs in the delivery of their Local Community Plans. Grants are for locally targeted, one-off, activities aimed at improving and encouraging community action in the NP area. Examples of the type of projects which can be funded include consulting the local community on their priorities for improving facilities in the area, providing activities for young people, and organising community events which develop community capacity.
- 2.3 This report provides details of the budgets and spending across themes and NP areas in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

### 3. Main report

3.1 The CGF provides an important mechanism for strengthening local democracy through involving the community in the decision making process. In recognition of this significant role, NPs seek to develop new ways to increase involvement, for example by using participatory budgeting approaches in the allocation of the funds. Each NP manages the fund to realise the maximum benefit for the community, providing grants to deliver the priorities identified within the Local Community Plans. These priorities are determined through an extensive programme of engagement and ongoing dialogue with the community. The fund also supports community development through enabling the community to take direct action in addressing local issues.

#### **Analysis of spend by themes for 2014/15 and 2015/16**

3.2 The CGF budget allocation of £405,679 each year was distributed across the twelve NPs based upon population. Table 1 below provides details of the NP CGF budgets and the number of grants awarded per NP in the last two financial years.

<b>NP Area</b>	<b>Budgets in 2014/15 &amp; 2015/16</b>	<b>Number of grants 2014/15</b>	<b>Number of grants 2015/16</b>
City Centre	£21,878	7	8
Craigentinny / Duddingston	£22,810	15	16
Portobello / Craigmillar	£21,737	18	17
Liberton / Gilmerton	£29,595	14	16
South Central	£57,373	22	27
South West	£50,249	23	32
Pentlands	£43,583	25	26
Western	£39,621	28	26
Almond	£21,904	22	20
Forth	£26,444	17	11
Inverleith	£26,301	21	16
Leith	£44,184	41	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£405,679</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>255</b>

Table 1: Budget Allocations and Number of Awards by NP for 2014/15 and 2015/16

- 3.3 Across the two years a total of 508 awards were made which represents a significant number of community projects taking place across the city supported by this fund. The number of awards by NP varies, with each NP using the fund to encourage the greatest outcome and support for local priorities and community action.
- 3.4 The type of activity the CGF supports across the city is wide ranging, and the number of awards are illustrated by theme in Table 2 below.

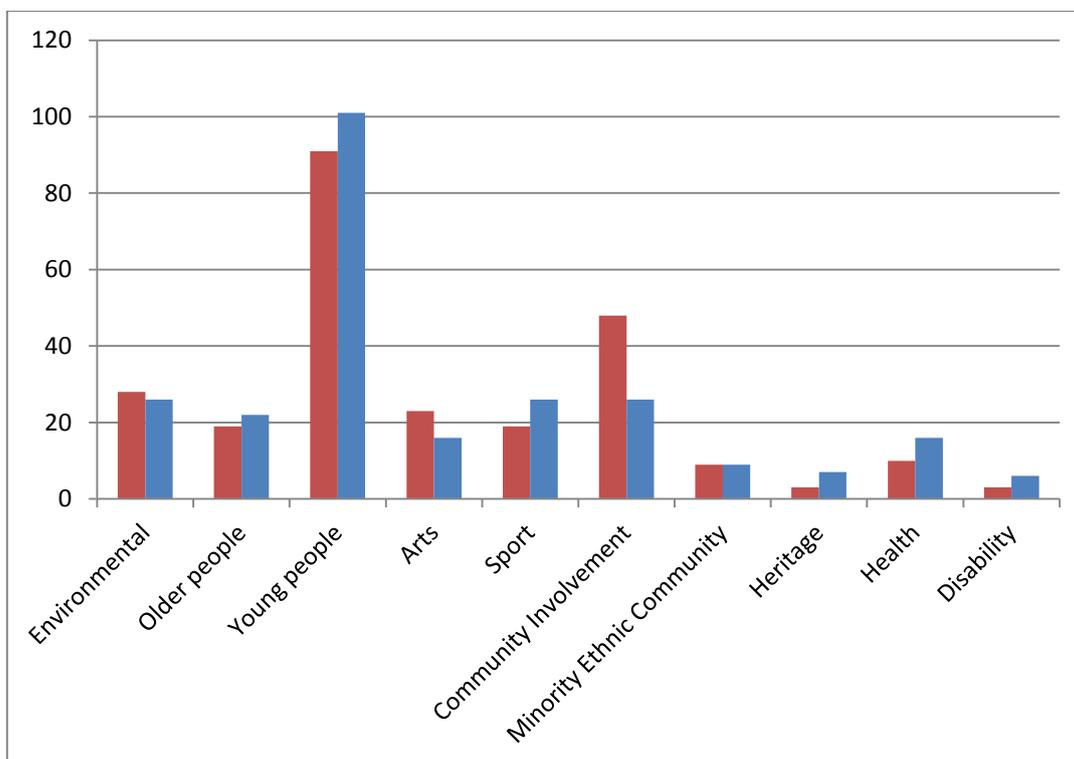


Table 2: Number of Awards categorised by theme in 2014/15 (red) and 2015/16 (blue)

- 3.5 The largest number of awards in both years were made for projects supporting young people and children, a priority identified across the NPs. Activities funded included the provision of youth programmes during the Summer and Easter holidays, purchase of playground equipment, improvements to facilities such as a youth theatre’s rehearsal space, the provision of a range of courses including farm skills and woodland craft and outdoor education residentials.
- 3.6 Community involvement themed projects were the second highest number of awards made. Examples of the activity funded included support to enhance communication through the development of websites and purchase of noticeboards and the production of newsletters, the purchase of equipment and improvements to community facilities, support for consultation events and the establishment of new groups.

3.7 Of the remaining themes, the projects delivered were equally wide ranging demonstrating the wealth of community led activity taking place across the city. Examples of these activities are provided below:

- The St Ninian's Parent Council redeveloped the kitchen garden for educational and community use.
- Leith Community Crops in Pots developed a community food growing project.
- The Broomhouse Health Strategy Group delivered chair exercise classes for older people.
- Queensferry Churches Care in the Community Project developed a programme of music therapy for older people.
- Open Door in Morningside was awarded funding to support a new older men's group.
- The Abbeyhill Primary School Parent Council Artist in Residence Project worked with professional artists to lead a group of 31 P5 pupils in a film making project, with their animation winning best documentary in the Edinburgh International Film Festival's school category.
- North Edinburgh Arts purchased stage and set construction materials for their new community theatre project.
- Citizen Curator ran an intergenerational drama project around the story of Newhaven.
- Juniper Green Community Council held a local book festival.
- Murrayfield DAFS Cricket Club were funded for a water remover for clearing surface water from pitches, a bowling machine auto feeder, and practice bay netting. The club is open to people of all ages and around 50 adults and 30 juniors have benefited from the project.
- Spartans Football Academy was supported in establishing a new club for minority ethnic children.
- The Edinburgh Interfaith Association organised a Multicultural Fun Day at the Hindu Temple.
- Prospect Community Housing ran two community events addressing race and hate crime issues.
- The Pakistan Society Information and Advice developed an activity programme for older people.
- Friends of Corstorphine Hill reprinted a booklet about the history of the Corstorphine Hill.
- Carr Gomm Community Compass Project used a grant for cookery classes for isolated older men.
- North West Carers Centre provided respite activities for carers of people with dementia and organised a barge trip for carers and clients.

## Community Funding Support Programme

- 3.8 The Community Funding Support Programme (CFSP) was introduced in 2009 to help voluntary and not-for-profit groups access non-Council funding sources and complement the CGF. Designed and delivered by the Local Community Planning Team, the programme comprises:
- 'Meet the Funders' market place events where community groups can discuss their projects and source grant aid from a range of funders from across the UK;
  - 'How to Apply for a Grant' workshops to support groups with the application process; and
  - regular funding updates and information.
- 3.9 Since 2009, 17 'Meet the Funders' events have been held attracting 2,580 visitors, with around 33 exhibitors participating. Feedback from visitors to the initial 'Meet the Funders' events identified a need for more help in preparing grant applications. Responding to this demand 'How to Apply for a Grant' workshops were developed to provide practical help to participants in improving their application skills. Since 2010, 24 workshops have been delivered to around 371 people in the city.
- 3.10 To continue to develop the CFSP, the Local Community Planning Team is working with Library Service to promote the online funding portal [Edinburgh4Community](#). The portal allows users to search for funding by theme or funding amount and also to receive email notifications of new and relevant funding directly. To support users, a 'how to' video was produced and is available to view [online](#). Edinburgh4Community also has direct links to the CFSP information on the Neighbourhood Partnership website.
- 3.11 From April 2015 to May 2016 three 'Meet the Funders' events were held. The event in the Central Library in April 2015 continued the successful partnership with the Library Service and attracted 252 visitors and 26 exhibitors. The format included live demonstrations of the funding portal; alongside opportunities for previously funded groups to promote their projects to a wider audience. This was followed, in December 2015 with an event in Portobello Town Hall. This attracted 185 visitors and 24 exhibitors, including six new exhibitors - Family Fund, MOD Covenant Fund, Home Energy Scotland, Postcode Lottery Trust, Tribe Party and Resourcing Scotland Heritage/Arts & Business Scotland. Feedback indicated that this venue was really popular with both visitors and exhibitors.

- 3.12 The most recent event, in May 2016, was held in Waverley Court. Traditionally events had been organised for during the day but this event was held in the evening with the aim of supporting different groups and organisations to attend. There was an excellent turnout with 203 visitors and 30 exhibitors. Attendees were able to speak to more new exhibitors Greenspace Scotland, Tesco Bags of Help, Scotrail Community Fund, Pilotlight, and Macmillan Cancer Care as well as regulars such as Big Lottery and the Robertson Trust. Feedback shows there was similar attendee numbers as at previous events, although the change in time was well received.
- 3.13 A communications and promotional plan has been developed to support the delivery of the CFSP. This includes using the NP website, Edinburgh4Community and social media channels to promote successful funding stories, new funding sources and events. This is consistent with the NP strategic approach to communications approved by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee in May 2014.

#### **4. Measures of success**

---

- 4.1 The CGF aims to encourage small scale activity which benefits local communities and supports the delivery of the objectives of the NP Local Community Plans. The success of the NPs will be measured through the CGF awards addressing NP priorities and outcomes as evidenced by the NP's Performance Framework.

#### **5. Financial impact**

---

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. All CGF awards will be contained within the allocated budgets for each NP.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

---

- 6.1 There are no adverse impacts arising from this report.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

---

- 7.1 Local community planning activity and the work of the NPs contributes to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 general duties of advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. The range of community projects across a wide range of equality groups supported by the CGF demonstrates a significant contribution to the delivery of equalities objectives by the NPs.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

---

- 8.1 There are no adverse environmental implications arising from this report.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

---

9.1 The CGF plays a key role in community development, building the capacity of local people to take direct action. The CGF decision making processes enables local people to have direct input and influence over the allocation of resources. The projects which are delivered by community groups are based on the identified local priorities.

## 10. Background reading/external references

---

10.1 The full CGF application pack is available on the NP website-

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/about-nps/funding/community-grants-fund/>

### Alistair Gaw

Acting Executive Director of Communities & Families

Contact: Michele Mulvaney, Community Engagement and Partnership Development Manager

E-mail: [Michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 3541

Contact : Maureen Thompson, Policy Assistant

Email : [maureen.thompson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.thompson@edinburgh.gov.uk) Tel :0131 469 3595

## Links

---

<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<a href="#">P33</a> – Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<a href="#">CP4</a> – Safe and empowered communities.
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO4</a> – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
<b>Appendices</b>	None