

# North East Locality Committee

5.00pm, Thursday 26 April 2018

## Neighbourhood Environment Programme/Community Grants Fund Report

Item number	7.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### Executive Summary

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The remit for Locality Committees as agreed by Council at its meeting on 23 November 2017 includes responsibility for the Community Grants Scheme and Neighbourhood Environment Programme.

This report provides details of these funding streams, together with key considerations in developing an allocation model for the North East locality.

## Neighbourhood Environment Programme/Community Grants Fund Report

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To note that a report will be submitted to Culture and Communities Committee regarding proposed changes to the Community Grants Scheme as set out in paragraph 3.6;
- 1.2 To agree an allocation option as described in paragraphs 3.20 to 3.23.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Council agreed in 2007 for the determination of applications under the Community Grants Scheme to be made at a local level. Under the arrangement, the decision-making function was delegated to officers, with applications to be considered by the Neighbourhood Partnership with the appropriate local manager acting on their advice.
- 2.2 To ensure a consistency of approach, the Council agreed that all grants would be subject to the Council's standard terms and conditions of grant and based on core criteria. The city-wide budget was disaggregated proportionally according to the population of each Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 2.3 In agreeing these arrangements, the Council recognised that similar arrangements could be applied to other budgets as appropriate. This subsequently was applied in respect of the Neighbourhood Environment Programme. This programme comprises allocations of Carriageway and Footpath capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets.
- 2.4 With the Council agreement in November 2017, responsibility for decision-making on the allocation of these funds now forms one of the delegated functions of the Locality Committees.

### 3. Main report

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#### Community Grants Scheme

- 3.1 In devolving decision making on the Community Grants Scheme, the Council agreed to the use of a standard application form, set of approved criteria and

compliance with the Council's approved Funding Conditions for grant aided organisations. The process of the Neighbourhood Partnerships distributing these funds was agreed previously by the Council.

- 3.2 The Scheme provides grants of up to £5,000 to constituted voluntary or community groups undertaking projects which benefit local communities and support locally identified priorities. Grants are provided for targeted, one-off, activities aimed at improving the quality of life and community action in the area.
- 3.3 The Scheme provides an important mechanism for strengthening local democracy through involving the community in the decision-making process. In recognising this role, Neighbourhood Partnerships have sought to develop different ways to increase involvement, including the use of participatory budgeting. Each Neighbourhood Partnership has sought to realise the maximum benefit for the community, providing grants to deliver the priorities identified within the former Local Community Plans. These priorities were determined through an extensive programme of engagement and ongoing dialogue with the community, using a variety of methods. The fund also provides an important role in supporting community development through enabling the community to take direct action in addressing local issues.
- 3.4 Analysis of allocations of grants across the Neighbourhood Partnerships in previous years shows that a variety of activity has been supported with awards made to projects addressing the environment, needs of people with protected characteristics, arts, sport and health. Support for youth themed activity and community involvement have strongly featured across the 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 3.5 The city-wide budget of £405,679 is disaggregated proportionally based on population estimates of Neighbourhood Partnerships, which comprise one or more wards. As revisions have been made to the ward boundaries it is proposed that with the transfer of decision making of the fund to the Locality Committees, to update the disaggregation on this basis. The impact of this change to locality budgets is summarised below. A breakdown of population and budget allocation by Neighbourhood Partnership is provided in Appendix 1.

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Current allocation 2017/18 £</b>	<b>Revised allocation based on recalculation 2018-19 £</b>	<b>Difference £</b>	<b>Difference %</b>
<b>North West</b>	114,270	115,253	+ 983	0.86 increase

<b>South West</b>	93,832	89,453	- 4,379	4.66 decrease
<b>North East</b>	88,731	92,738	+ 4,007	4.52 increase
<b>South East</b>	108,846	108,235	-611	0.56 decrease
<b>Totals</b>	<b>405,679</b>	<b>405,679</b>		

**Table 1: Allocation of Community Grants Fund by Locality**

3.6 As this recalculation has a city-wide impact and there is a need to update the policy to reflect the new decision-making structures, it is proposed to seek approval for the change from the Culture and Communities Committee at its meeting on 19 June 2018. In addition, to provide for greater flexibility in the local determination of the use of these funds, approval will be sought to enable Locality Committees to agree their funding criteria. The existing requirement for compliance with the Council's Funding Conditions will remain.

#### Neighbourhood Environment Programme

3.7 The Neighbourhood Environment Programme comprises two elements of funding, support for improvements to:

- local roads and footpaths based on a flat sum allocation for each locality from the carriageway and footpath capital budget; and
- Council housing areas with the budget allocated from the Housing Revenue Account and based on Council tenancies in each locality. The criteria for the spend is managed by Finance and the central Housing Property Team.

3.8 The allocations for each of these elements for 2018/19 by locality is set out below. A breakdown by Neighbourhood Partnership and ward is provided in Appendix 2.

<b>Locality</b>	<b>HRA £</b>	<b>Roads £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>North West</b>	534,000	200,000	734,000
<b>South West</b>	572,000	100,000	672,000
<b>North East</b>	516,000	150,000	666,000
<b>South East</b>	378,000	150,000	528,000

**Table 2: Neighbourhood Environment Programme Allocation by Locality**

Note – the figures above do not include carry forward from previous years.

- 3.9 As with the Community Grants Scheme, the Neighbourhood Partnerships use a variety of approaches to identify and select the projects to fund. The identification of projects involves dialogue with community councils, community groups, registered tenants' organisations, residents and elected members. Officers can also put forward suggestions based on their knowledge of local issues. Selection has been through the Neighbourhood Partnerships, involving in some instances sub groups or the Area Housing Board, using a variety of methods. These include selection panels, online voting and pop up events. In 2016, the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership held the first Neighbourhood Environment Programme participatory budgeting event to select projects for funding.

#### Next Steps

- 3.10 The Council in agreeing to the local determination of these funds in 2007, and providing Neighbourhood Partnerships with a key role, sought to strengthen community involvement in the democratic process. This decision has enabled communities to work co-operatively with elected members, public and third sector partners to achieve better outcomes and to be engaged in decisions to improve their areas.
- 3.11 The funds have played an important role in supporting the delivery of local priorities and grass roots development. The different approaches used by the Neighbourhood Partnerships to allocate the funds have aimed to widen community involvement in the decision-making process, recognising that engagement is not restricted to participation in formal structures. For example, the use of participatory budgeting has been successful in increasing participation in democratic decision making, promoting a greater understanding of public budgets and encouraging communities to develop solutions to local issues.
- 3.12 This approach to working with communities is central to achieving the long-term, sustainable change which is at the heart of the national public sector reform agenda, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Council's strategic ambitions as set out in 'Programme for the Capital, The City of Edinburgh Business Plan 2017-22'.
- 3.13 With responsibility for decision making for the budgets now a function of the Locality Committee there is an opportunity to consider the future model for the allocation of the funds.
- 3.14 In determining the next steps there are a number of factors that require to be considered. Critical within this is the resource requirement to manage the allocation process, particularly with small pots of money. There is scope in developing a new model, to maximise the impact and achieve greater efficiencies through combining budgets.
- 3.15 There is also potential to use the budgets more flexibly across the locality rather than allocating at ward or Neighbourhood Partnership level, with opportunities to target the spend differently. This includes a possible thematic or geographic approach based on levels of need, specific targeting to tackle poverty and inequality

and/or a locality wide approach based on delivery of the priorities identified within the Locality Improvement Plan (LIP). Using the LIP as the basis of the allocation would provide a ready vehicle for ensuring decisions were informed by the community needs and aspirations. It would also build on the established approach of Neighbourhood Partnerships in using the funds to support the delivery of the Local Community Plan.

- 3.16 In considering the allocation process, the role of Neighbourhood Partnerships and, specifically community and partner involvement in the decision-making process, also needs to be considered. This should take account of the Council decision at its meeting on 26 October 2017 to continue with the Neighbourhood Partnerships pending the outcome of the review and consultation of community planning arrangements.
- 3.17 There is also an opportunity to strengthen community influence and participation by building on the participatory budgeting approaches used by the Neighbourhood Partnerships, fulfilling the Locality Committee function to lead participatory budgeting within the locality on funds allocated by Council or committee. In adopting this approach consideration needs to be given to resourcing. Adopting one participatory budgeting approach for the whole locality, potentially linked to the Locality Improvement Plan, could provide many benefits including achieving economies of scale, fostering community cohesion and opportunities for greater partnership working.
- 3.18 The development of a new model for the allocation for these funds, presents an opportunity not just to build on existing strengths but to contribute to the ambition of creating new ways to meaningfully support community empowerment and engagement within each locality.
- 3.19 This development process will take time and requires the agreement of Culture and Communities Committee for the Scheme criteria to be changed as referenced in paragraph 3.6. Consideration should also be given to the role of Neighbourhood Partnerships, recognising the Council decision for their continuation as referenced in paragraph 3.16. Given this, there is a need to consider options to ensure the community action and improvement activity supported by these funds is not diminished during this transitional period. These are set out below.

#### Option 1

- 3.20 To continue with the existing arrangement whereby applications are considered by the Neighbourhood Partnerships based on the priorities in the Locality Improvement Plan and under the Scheme of Delegation approved by the Locality Manager. These decisions could then be reported to the Locality Committee for information. In agreeing this option, consideration would need to be given to whether a fixed amount of the budget would be made available. This would ensure funds could then be allocated using the new model within the current financial year. Elected members would continue to have a role in this process through their involvement in the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

## Option 2

- 3.21 As above but with the Neighbourhood Partnerships' recommendations on the allocation of the funds being presented to the Locality Committee for approval. The timings of the respective meetings will need to be carefully considered. There is already an established process for considering time sensitive applications out with the normal meeting cycle with decisions being reported retrospectively to the Locality Committee.
- 3.22 In adopting either option 1 or 2 consideration would need to be given to an appropriate timescale with this either being for the full year or a defined period and recognising the Culture and Communities Committee reporting timeline.

## Option 3

- 3.23 To agree to part or all of budgets being allocated using a participatory budgeting approach. This would allow work to start on designing a participatory budgeting initiative appropriate for the locality, whilst recognising the reporting timeline to Culture and Communities Committee. In designing the approach, recognition will need to be given to the resource requirements and the limited capacity to deliver differently funded small scale initiatives within concurrent timescales across the locality. Where there was a decision to allocate part funding to a participatory budgeting approach, consideration would be required on the option for allocating the other funds during the transitional period. This approach would support the Council's strategic aim to be an Empowering Council and the achievement of the commitment to become a leading Council in Scotland for community engagement with 1% of the discretionary budget allocated through participatory budgeting.

## **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 These funds aim to support the delivery of locally identified priorities. On this basis, success can be measured through the Performance Framework being developed for the Locality Improvement Plans.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The resourcing of the management of these funds represents a potential significant pressure depending on the approach taken to their allocation. Taking different approaches across the locality, particularly in relation to participatory budgeting, has a potential impact on resources.

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

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- 6.1 The involvement of communities in the decision making of these funds has been a significant feature and needs to be recognised in the development of the future approach.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 Activity supported through these funds contributes to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 general duties of advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Activity supported through these funds has the potential to positively impact on sustainability.

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 These funding streams provide an important mechanism for strengthening local democracy and supporting community development.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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## **11. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 - Community Grants Scheme - Population and Neighbourhood Partnership Allocation Breakdown

Appendix 2 - Neighbourhood Environment Programme Budget Breakdown 2018-19 by Locality, Ward and Neighbourhood Partnership

## Community Grants Scheme - Population and Neighbourhood Partnership Allocation Breakdown

Locality	Ward	Current Population Estimate 2018	Population +/- Change	Neighbourhood Partnership	Allocation 2017/18 £	Recalculated Allocation 2018-19 £
<b>North West</b>	Drumbrae/Gyle	23,512	-264	Western	39,621	37,565
	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	22,638	-383			
	Almond	33,938	+7,423	Almond	21,904	27,586
	Forth	30,886	-3,086	Forth	26,444	25,112
	Inverleith	30,744	-3,695	Inverleith	26,301	24,990
	<b>North West Total</b>	<b>141 718</b>				
<b>North East</b>	Leith	23,243	-2,514	Leith	44,184	44,624
	Leith Walk	31,649	-957			
	Craigentinny/Duddingston	31,350	+4,861	Craigentinny/ Duddingston	22,810	25,477
	Craigmillar/Portobello	27,819	+1,766	Craigmillar/ Portobello	21,737	22,637
	<b>North East Total</b>	<b>114 061</b>				
<b>South East</b>	Central Edinburgh	30,756	+8,229	City Centre	21,878	25,030
	Liberton/Gilmerton	32,546	-1,739	Liberton/Gilmerton	29,595	26,451
	Southside/Newington	36,169	+1,789	South Central	57,373	56,754
	Meadows/Morningside	33,570	-1,213			
	<b>South East Total</b>	<b>133 041</b>				
<b>South West</b>	Craiglockhart/Fountainbridge	23,244	-295	South West	50,249	45,274
	Sighthill/Gorgie	32,438	-7,685			
	Pentland Hills	30,537	+5,989	Pentland	43,583	44,179
	Colinton/Fairmilehead	23,771	-2,096			
	<b>South West Total</b>	<b>109 990</b>				
	<b>Citywide Total</b>	<b>498,810</b>	<b>+6,130</b>		<b>405,679</b>	<b>405,679</b>

**Neighbourhood Environment Programme  
Budget Breakdown 2018-19 by Locality, Ward and Neighbourhood Partnership**

Locality	Ward	Partnership	HRA 2018-19 £	Roads 2018/19 £	Total £
<b>North East</b>	Craigentinny/Duddingston	Craigentinny/Duddingston	199,692	50,000	
	Leith Walk	Leith	35,604	50,000	
	Leith		97,008		
	Portobello/Craigmillar	Craigmillar/Portobello	183,696	50,000	
	<b>North East Locality Total</b>			<b>516,000</b>	
<b>North West</b>	Almond	Almond	143,112	50,000	
	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	Western	17,622	50,000	
	Drumbrae/Gyle		66,216		
	Forth	Forth	248,844	50,000	
	Inverleith	Inverleith	58,206	50,000	
	<b>North West Locality Total</b>			<b>534,000</b>	
<b>South East</b>	Central Edinburgh	City Centre	61,614	50,000	
	Liberton/Gilmerton	Liberton/Gilmerton	261,198	50,000	
	Meadows/Morningside	South Central	4,536	50,000	
	Southside/Newington		50,652		
	<b>South East Locality Total</b>			<b>378,000</b>	
<b>South West</b>	Colinton/Fairmilehead	Pentland	60,203	50,000	
	Pentland Hills		276,991		
	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	South West	37,895	50,000	
	Sighthill/Gorgie		196,911		
	<b>South West Locality Total</b>			<b>572,000</b>	
<b>City-wide Total</b>			<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>