

North East Locality Committee

5.00pm, Tuesday 4 September 2018

Investment in Communities and Localities Budget 2018/19

Item number	8.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	12, 13, 14, 17
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

As part of the Council's budget for 2018/19 an allocation of £250,000 was set aside as an additional sum to support investment in Communities and Localities, with each of the four Localities receiving £62,500.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Locality Committee to allocate this budget to support activity undertaken by the Locality team, partners, and the community to deliver a range of actions and initiatives against the local priorities as set out in the North East Locality Improvement Plan (LIP).

Investment in Communities and Localities Budget 2018/19

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note that a budget of £62,500 has been allocated to the North East Locality as part of the Investment in Communities and Localities budget for 2018/19.
- 1.2 To agree to allocate a sum of £10,000 from this budget to match fund the allocation of £10,000 from the Culture budget to establish a Local Events Fund as described in the previous Local Events Fund Report (item 8.4) to support artistic and cultural activity.
- 1.3 To agree that this fund would be administered through an application process as in 2017/18, with a Funding Panel comprising of local Councillors, officers, community representatives and third sector representatives.
- 1.4 To agree that the remaining budget total £52,500 is used to develop and deliver a range of actions and activities to support delivery against the priorities as set out in the North East Locality Improvement Plan (LIP).

2. Background

- 2.1 As part of the Council's budget for 2018/19 an allocation of £250,000 was set aside as an additional sum to support investment in Communities and Localities, with each of the four Localities receiving £62,500.
- 2.2 There are no specific deliverables or conditions attached to this revenue budget other than it should be used to support local priorities.
- 2.3 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement on proposals for how this budget should be used over the remaining financial year.

3. Main report

- 3.1 An amount of £62,500 has been set aside from the Council's budget to support local priorities in the North East Locality. The budget provides a relatively modest but vital resource to help partners, officers and community deliver against local priorities. In order to achieve the maximum gain from this resource, it is proposed that the budget is used to:
 - 3.1.1 re-establish a Local Events Fund for the Locality; and

3.1.2 support the delivery of a range of activities against the priorities as set out in the North East Locality Improvement Plan (LIP).

Local Events Fund

- 3.2 The Local Events Fund Report (item x) provided a progress report for the NE Locality Committee based on the success of the pilot project to establish a Local Events Fund of £15,000 in 2017/18. The fund was awarded via a Funding Panel process to four successful projects across the Locality. The level of interest in the fund was the highest in the North East Locality where 28 applications were received.
- 3.3 Based on the success of the previous year, a further £40,000 has been allocated from the Culture budget to re-establish the Local Events Fund subject to match funding of £10,000 from each Locality. This would increase the budget available for community groups from £15,000 in 2017/18 to a proposed total of £20,000 in 2018/19.
- 3.4 It is proposed that this fund is administered through an application process as in 2017/18, with a Funding Panel comprising of local Councillors, officers, community representatives and third sector representatives.

Locality Improvement Plan Delivery

- 3.5 Partners, Officers, and the community are working together to deliver against a wide range of priorities and commitments included in the LIP across five themed priorities and three Small Area Plans. This budget provides an opportunity to fund and support the delivery of activities identified in the LIP.
- 3.6 It is therefore proposed that the remaining budget of £52,500 be used to support the delivery of LIP outcomes and activities including:
- 3.6.1 the development and successful delivery of participatory budgeting processes across the Locality and in work to support local people having a greater say in how budgets are spent across communities e.g. £eith Chooses; You Decide; Craigentenny & Duddingston Pop-Up NEP/ CGF (Neighbourhood Environment Programme/ Community Grants Fund) Events;
 - 3.6.2 the delivery of YouthTalk and community engagement and improvement work with young people e.g. improvement work as identified by the North East Youth Ambassadors Group; youth awards event; peer engagement activity
 - 3.6.3 the continuation of engagement and communications work with local people to further the community empowerment agenda and to better inform the development of the LIP Action Plans e.g. Magdalene Matters newsletter; place-making activities; additional engagement work in Small Areas; and
 - 3.6.4 to support partners and local communities to develop and deliver environmental and community safety improvements e.g. graffiti arts projects; Weeks of Action; supporting community clean-ups; drop-in community surgery promotion; community and local active travel campaigns.

Impacts

- 3.7 The potential gains in using the Communities and Localities budget in the proposed ways would be to help local people feel part of their communities, listened to and involved in local improvements. The overall aims would be to use the fund to tackle priorities in partnership and to ensure that the resource is targeted to have a positive impact on the most vulnerable and in the areas of highest need in the Locality.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the North East Locality Improvement Plan Project Group would have a coordinating role in identifying projects and improvements that would be appropriate for funding. The Locality Manager will oversee the budget to ensure that the spend is on target and achieving maximum impact against the priorities in the LIP.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 It is proposed that these funds will support the delivery of locally identified priorities as set out in the North East LIP. As such, success will be able to be measured through the Performance Framework being developed for the LIP.
- 4.2 A measure of success will also be full expenditure of the available funds.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The resourcing of the management of these funds could present a potential significant pressure depending on the approach taken to their allocation. The proposal included in this Report is intended to minimise the level of resource required to allocate the funds with the aim of maximising the positive impact of spend.
- 5.2 The resourcing of the management of the proposed Local Events Fund will require locality resource to support the grant application process.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The expenditure of the fund will be monitored by the Locality team.

7. Equalities impact

- 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

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

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The development of the North East LIP was a collaborative process involving the community and partners, with the priorities set having been informed by extensive public engagement. The successfully funded projects all met priorities identified in the LIP.
- 9.2 The proposed use of these funds to actively promote and develop community engagement activity, participatory budgeting and to deliver against the LIP presents a key opportunity to strengthen local democracy and supporting community development.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 North East Locality Improvement Plan

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11. Appendices

None