

North West Locality Committee

6.30pm, Tuesday 11 September 2018

Investment in Communities and Localities Budget

Item number	8.9
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

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

This report seeks approval from 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 priorities set out in the North West Locality Improvement Plan, and to establish a member officer working group to oversee this process.

Investment in Communities and Localities Budget

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Committee note the allocation of £62,500 to the North West Communities and Localities budget;
- 1.2 That Committee allocate £10,000 from this budget to match fund the allocation of £10,000 from the Culture budget to establish a Local Events Fund, and that this be administered as detailed in 3.4 below;
- 1.3 That Committee agree to expend the remainder of the budget by adopting one or more of the options detailed in 3.5-3.12 below;
- 1.4 That Committee establishes a member officer working group with authority to expend this budget.

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 Locality Improvement Plan (LIP) priorities.

3. Main report

- 3.1 An amount of £62,500 has been set aside from the Council's budget to support local priorities in North West. The budget provides a relatively modest but vital resource to help partners, officers and community deliver against local priorities, and in particular fund some of the priority actions contained in the LIP.

Local Events Fund

- 3.2 An update on the 2017/18 Local Events Fund is included in the Business Bulletin, and a full report will be presented to Committee in the next cycle. The £15,000 budget was oversubscribed, with 10 organisations submitting bids of over £51,000. The funding panel, comprising elected members, officers, and community representatives, made awards to 4 organisations, although given the budget constraints these were less than the organisations had bid for.

- 3.3 Based on the demand in the previous year, a further £40,000 has been allocated city-wide from the Culture budget to re-establish the Local Events Fund, subject to match funding of £10,000 from each Locality. If agreed, this would increase the local budget available to £20,000 in 2018/19.
- 3.4 It is therefore recommended that Committee agree to allocate £10,000 from the North West Communities and Localities budget to provide match-funding for a North West Local Events Fund of £20,000 for 2018/19. If agreed it is proposed that this fund is administered through an application and funding process as in 2017/18, with a Funding Panel being established to agree which applications should be funded.

LIP Themes

- 3.5 The LIP update report also on this agenda suggests more focused priorities for each of the LIP themes of Employment, Training & Education, Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety, Children, Young People & Families, and Place during 2018/19.
- 3.6 Within each of the themes there are a number of actions which would benefit from financial support – examples for each theme include:
- rolling out the Cyrenians model of support to young people
 - promoting patient involvement with primary care services
 - developing community safety events and reporting mechanisms
 - supporting Youth Talk and Youth Engagement Partnerships
 - supporting communities to engage with developers.
- 3.7 Any one of the themes could easily account for the entirety of the budget, and each of them are equally important, so Committee may wish to make an in principle award to each theme – an equal split would give an award of £10,500 if the Local Events Fund is being supported, or £12,500 if not.

Small Areas

- 3.8 The other priority actions in the LIP are around the small areas which require most focused inputs. Of the 5 small areas identified (Gateside, Walker Drive, Clermiston, East Craigs and North Edinburgh), actions in the first 3 essentially revolve around operational Council services, and physical improvements being addressed by the Neighbourhood Environment Programme. Although additional budget might be beneficial, it is not essential to carry out the Action Plans. Early discussions in East Craigs have identified actions in partnership with Registered Social Landlords which might benefit from some budget.
- 3.9 North Edinburgh is both geographically and quantitatively more complex, and the draft Action Plan has identified a range of projects which could help to develop genuine community engagement and a co-productive approach. Funding support for these pilot projects would greatly enhance their reach and potential outcomes, providing better learning for the ongoing development of the North Edinburgh Action Plan.

- 3.10 If Committee are minded to fund activity in the small areas, the proposed budget split would be £5,000 to East Craigs with the remainder (£47,500 or £57,500 depending on whether Local Events Fund is supported) to North Edinburgh.

Community Engagement

- 3.11 Many of the priorities within the draft LIP Action Plans relate to community engagement, as can be seen from some of the examples referred to above. Committee may therefore wish to ring fence any budget awarded in support of LIP actions specifically for community engagement activities.
- 3.12 Alternatively, or in addition, taking on board the desire of community councils to be better supported in their engagement with Committee as noted in the Community Councils Engagement report also on this agenda, Committee may wish to consider using some or all of the available budget to support community councils. As the LIP themes apply across the whole of North West supporting community councils would also directly support their engagement with the LIP Action Plans.

General

- 3.13 In order to ensure proper governance and administration of the Communities and Localities budget, it is recommended that Committee delegate decision-making authority on the expenditure of the budget to a member officer working group (including partners if appropriate), and that this working group regularly reports back to Committee.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 It is proposed that this budget will support the delivery of locally identified priorities as set out in the North West LIP. As such, success will be able to be measured through the Performance Framework being developed for the LIP.
- 4.1 Regular reports to Committee on budget expenditure.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Costs associated with this report will be contained within the Communities and Localities budget.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no significant risk, policy, compliance or governance implications arising from this report.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Locality community planning activity, and in particular the activities supported by 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 No specific implications.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The development of the North West LIP has been a collaborative process involving the community and partners, with the priorities set having been informed by extensive public engagement. The successfully funded activities will meet priorities identified in the LIP.
- 9.2 The proposed use of these funds to actively promote and develop community engagement activity 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 West Locality Improvement Plan

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