

North East Locality Committee

2.00pm, Tuesday, 26 March 2019

Neighbourhood Environment Programme / Community Grants Fund Update Report 2018/19

Item number	8.3
Executive/routine	
Wards	12,13,14,17
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the allocation of the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) as described in paragraphs 4.1 – 4.16;
- 1.2 To approve the allocation of the Community Grants Fund (CGF) as described in paragraphs 4.17 – 4.18; and
- 1.3 To note progress in the Leith Chooses participatory budgeting process as described in paragraphs 4.19 – 4.25.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Neighbourhood Environment Programme / Community Grants Fund Update Report 2018/19

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a progress update on the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) and Community Grants Fund (CGF) funding streams in the North East Locality.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the North East Locality Committee (NELC) meeting on the [26 April 2018](#), the Committee recognised the key role that the local Neighbourhood Partnerships (NP) play in allocating both NEP and CGF Funds. The decision was reached to continue with the current arrangements whereby applications or proposals are considered by the Neighbourhood Partnerships based on the priorities in the Locality Improvement Plan and then reported for approval to the following NELC meeting.

4. Main report

Neighbourhood Environment Programme

Portobello and Craigmillar

- 4.1 At the Portobello and Craigmillar NP meeting on 20 February 2019, the Partnership received an update from Officers on the previously agreed NEP project to replace the pedestrian barriers and resurface the footway under the railway bridge at Newcraighall. Officers advised that the cost to deliver this project were increasing due to challenges finding a Contractor to accept the work. The costs had the potential to increase to £30,000. The increase to cost was noted and it was agreed to continue with the project.
- 4.2 The NP also agreed to recommend the following projects to the Locality Committee for funding:
- Footway resurfacing - Queens Bay Crescent – Estimate £10,000
 - Footpath and Benches - Joppa Quarry park – Estimate £20,000

- Dropped Crossing - Spokes Locations: as many as can be provided within remaining 2018/19 budget following other project delivery - £1,500 per crossing
- Construct new path - Jack Kane centre – Estimate £15,000
- Improve play park – Towerbank – Estimate £50,000

4.3 With the projects above being recommended the NP noted that this would overcommit their budget for the current financial year. As such it was agreed to put the upgrade of the bus turning area on Niddrie Mains Road project on hold, so potential improvements could be tied to the placemaking work that is currently taking place.

4.4 The NP agreed to recommend a project to further develop green space at Wauchope House / Greendykes House which was estimated at £11,920.

4.5 The NP noted that if the Wauchope House / Greendykes House project is approved, the NEP Housing budget has been fully approved.

4.6 The Committee is asked to note that the actual delivery cost of the Portobello Potteries project was £17,612 and not £27,157 as previously reported.

Craigentenny and Duddingston

4.7 The Craigentenny and Duddingston NP Funding Panel met on the 21 February to consider project proposals and prioritise projects for funding.

4.8 At the Craigentenny and Duddingston NP meeting on the 26 February 2019 it was noted that following feasibility work the following projects previously approved could not proceed:

- New multi-use sports pitch and path project at Figgate Park; and
- Community garden / growing project at the gardens behind Lochend Road South

4.9 The NP agreed to alter its recommendation previously reported to Committee on 31 January 2019 as it was agreed that both of these projects should be removed from the prioritised list and that the £75,000 previously allocated to the Figgate Park project would be recommended for allocation towards holistic place making improvements at Northfield Grove.

4.10 Officers advised the Partnership that speed counts had been undertaken on Northfield Grove as part of investigations for the previously approved traffic calming project. The average speed of vehicles was shown to be below 17mph. The Partnership agreed to recommend that the £10,000 previously allocated to traffic calming in Northfield Grove should be allocated towards holistic place making improvements at Northfield Grove in addition to the £75,000 referred to in paragraph 4.8.

4.11 Officers advised the NP that the land identified as potential community garden space at Lochend Road South is not feasible as the ground proposed is a tenant's garden allocation. It was agreed not to proceed with this project.

4.12 Officers provided the Partnership with an update on the feasibility work which had been undertaken at one of the NP communal bin project locations, Lochend Avenue, and that the cost estimate for delivery of this project was £37,000. Officers highlighted that as the street was 50% Council tenancy, only 50% of the HRA NEP budget could be used to fund this project. The other 50% will be funded from Waste and Cleansing budgets.

4.13 It was agreed the next communal bin location to be investigated would be Sleigh Drive.

Leith

4.14 At the Leith NP Meeting on 27 February 2019, Officers provided the Partnership with information regarding the project proposal to introduce a cycle link across the bridge linking North Fort Street and Lindsay Road. This project will require to be put on hold until further information can be provided to elected members and local stakeholders.

4.15 The Partnership noted that the contract to upgrade the Leith Links play park had been awarded to MW Groundworks. Officers are now working with the Contractor to establish a construction programme. It is anticipated that there will be an 8-week lead in time for the procurement of the play equipment and that the project will be complete for the summer.

4.16 The Partnership agreed to recommend a project to replace existing fencing at Cables Wynd House with new steel bowtop fencing to the Locality Committee to be funded from the HRA NEP estimated at £19,188.

Community Grants Fund

Craigtinny and Duddingston

4.17 The Craigtinny and Duddingston Partnership's Funding Panel met on 18 February 2019 to consider eight CGF applications. The Panel agreed to recommend all eight applications for full awards to the Craigtinny and Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership. The applications funding requests total £15,233 and if approved will fully allocate the remaining CGF for the 2018 – 2019 financial year.

4.18 At its meeting on the 26 February 2019 the Partnership recommended the following awards from the CGF:

- NP2/07/18 – Piershill Backgreen Association £600
- NP2/09/18 – Northfield and Willowbrae Community Service Group £2060
- NP2/10/18 - Lochend Community Growing Project £1490
- NP2/11/18 - People Know How £3000
- NP2/12/18 - 1143 Portobello Squadron, Air Training Corps. £2451
- NP2/13/18 - Craigtinny Castle Playgroup £3000

- NP2/14/18 - Craigentenny Telferton Allotments £1880
- NP2/15/18 - Urban Eden Association £752

Leith

- 4.19 The Leith Chooses Steering Group held the ninth Participatory Budgeting Voting Event on Saturday 23rd February 2019 at Leith Community Centre to distribute £44,624 CGF. People aged 8 years or older who live study work or volunteer in Leith were eligible to vote.
- 4.20 Thirty-one applications were received. Thirty projects were eligible for voting; one project withdrew. Twenty-nine projects were presented to the public in an on-line gallery in advance of the vote to inform and encourage voters.
- 4.21 The voting event was attended by 1267 people, casting 4,644 votes. In addition, 168 children under 8 years voted for the 'best' stall in a fun ballot.
- 4.22 A new voting system was trialled and initial responses indicate positive support for the principle of ensuring fairness for applicants supporting Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. This was implemented by eligible applicants receiving a 'boost' vote which voters could choose to cast (or not).
- 4.23 Leith Chooses was cited by the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership as an example of good practice at its meeting on the 27 February 2019.
- 4.24 An Awards Evening was held in March where successful organisations were formally presented with their grants.
- 4.25 A follow up Feedback Conversation Workshop was also held in March where participants and partners were invited to give their feedback and views on the Leith Chooses process.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Officers will continue to deliver NEP projects agreed by the Locality Committee.
- 5.2 Officers will process CGF to successful groups.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 All costs associated with projects are detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3
- 6.3 The resourcing of the management, development and delivery of NEPs projects and participatory budgeting processes presents a continued significant pressure. Given there are several years of underspend, not all projects will be delivered within this financial year.
- 6.4 We have been successful in securing external funding through WREN to the value of £99,954.93 to support the delivery of the Leith Links play park

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The involvement of communities in the decision-making process for these funds has been a significant feature of the activity.
- 7.2 The proposed use of these funds has been developed with Community input and engagement and have been recommended through public meetings of the Neighbourhood Partnerships to actively promote and develop community engagement activity, participatory budgeting and to deliver against the Local Improvement Plan (LIP).

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.