

Report of the East North East Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 7th September 2009

Subject: Well-Being Budget

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report contains details of proposed projects/activities to deliver local actions relating to agreed themes and outcomes of the Area Delivery Plan. The projects have been discussed at a meeting of Area Committee's Member Well-Being Group and their recommendations are included for noting and/or approving.

The latest financial position of the Wellbeing (revenue and capital) budget are also provided as appendix A and B.

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Area Committee on project applications/proposals that have been discussed with the Member Working Group since the last Area Committee meeting and to seek approval of their recommendations where relevant.
2. The latest financial position of the revenue and capital Wellbeing budgets is provided to assist the decision making, attached as appendix A and B (includes Small Grants scheme).

Background

3. At the Special Meeting in August 2008, the Area Committee agreed to split the Well-Being Fund between the strategic themes identified in the Area Delivery Plan, as well as retaining an element of funding for ward based projects and continuation of the Small Grants scheme.
4. The spending decisions made to date against each heading are summarised in appendix A.

The applications presented were considered by the Area Committee in June 2009 and it was requested that additional information be provided in relation to each for them to be reconsidered at this meeting.

Applications

5. The Area Management team are doing rigorous checks on financial accounts, CRB checks, constitutional documents and other related documentation for all applications to ensure that safeguarding and financial regulations are adhered to.

Project/Activity Proposals:

Chapel Allerton Arts Festival Festival funding - £6,000 revenue

6. This application was received with very tight deadlines for the funding to be approved before the festival takes place. It was therefore dealt with outside the Area Committee cycle.
7. The festival takes place the week commencing 31st August and includes a short film night, poetry, music and culminates with a street festival. The event has been running for eleven years, this is its twelfth and over the period attracts 10,000 people to the various events.
8. The aim of the project is to promote community harmony and encourage participation and education of the local community in cultural activities. A secondary aim is to provide opportunities for event management training and experience for anyone who is willing to offer some time voluntarily to make the event happen.

9. *This project was approved outside the Inner North East Area Committee cycle and is included for information.*
10. *This project will assist in achieving priority A1 to enable more people to be involved in sport and culture by providing better quality and wider ranging activities and facilities and H1a in the Area Delivery Plan to increase resident participation in attending and organising community events across Inner NE which promote neighbourhoods and activities within them.*

Parks and Countryside

Installation of a Gate at depot entrance of Potternewton Park - £4,000 capital

11. Problems with motor vehicles on Leeds City Council parks land has recently become heightened and has been raised at Chapeltown tasking as a major problem in the area, particularly in Potternewton Park.
12. A site visit on the park was carried out and it was established that there are currently 3 access points that allow vehicles to enter the park. Parks and Countryside have agreed to fund the closure of two of the access points but funding is still required for the third one. The funding would pay for the fitting of a vehicular and pedestrian gate and moving a stone pillar.
13. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the project and recommended that the full amount of £4,000 be approved to Parks & Countryside to administer.*
14. *This project will assist in achieving priority E3a Improved environmental appearance of inner north east and priority A1b to improve the facilities and condition of parks and open spaces to encourage greater use by residents.*

Groundwork Leeds

The Bumps Playscheme - £15,000 capital

15. The Bumps is a well-established play area surrounded by housing but due to its age is now showing signs of wear and tear and consequently is not being as well used as it could be by local children.
16. Working with local residents, parks and countryside and local ward councillors Groundwork Leeds have come up with a new design for the area. The innovative play area conforms to best practice and includes renovation of existing slides, creation of a dry riverbed and bridge, installation of boulders and toddler and junior swings, goal ends and seats, bins and footpath works.
17. The total cost of the scheme is £65,277.71 of which £30,000 has been secured from playbuilders, £2,777.71 from Groundwork Leeds and £17,500 has been approved in principle from LCC Groundwork PSF. The project requires £15,000 to complete the proposals and this is requested from the area committee wellbeing funds.
18. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the project and recommended that the full amount of £15,000 be approved to Groundwork Leeds to administer, with the recommendation that they work with residents look at further artwork installations at the other entrances..*

19. *This project will assist in achieving priority A1b to improve the facilities and condition of parks and open spaces to encourage greater use by residents and priority F2d improved sports facilities.*

Moortown Community Group

Moortown Neighbourhood Design Statement and Moortown in Bloom - £13,365.43 revenue

20. Moortown Community Group is a voluntary association established by local residents in the summer of 2008. It was established to ensure that the essential character of the Moortown area is protected and enhanced for present and future generations.
21. One of its objectives is to produce a Neighbourhood Design Statement (NDS) for Moortown which can be adopted by Leeds City Council as a Supplementary Planning Document for the area. The Moortown NDS will be of benefit to existing and future residents and businesses within the Moortown NDS boundary as well as being a tool to guide householders, developers, landowners, architects, engineers and planners on the aspects of Moortown which define its character when preparing development schemes. The NDS will be directly relevant to some 1,900 households within the Moortown NDS area.
22. The wellbeing funding requested will be primarily directed towards community consultation elements of the Neighbourhood Design Statement process. This will include the costs towards production of household questionnaire survey, exhibition material, hire of venue and equipment, postage and other administrative costs, adequate public liability insurance and production of final document.
23. Moortown in Bloom was established by MCG in 2009 and is recognised as an In Bloom Group by the Chair of the Leeds Floral Initiative and is associated with the Leeds in Bloom group. Moortown in Bloom will benefit not only the residents of Moortown but also local independent and high street shops and services, local businesses, but also visitors and commuters that pass through Moortown to get to Leeds, Harrogate and beyond.
24. The funding requested will be used to purchase plants and shrubs and planters/containers for floral displays. The fund will also ensure that the group has adequate Public Liability Insurance from RHS Britain in Bloom as well as providing an opportunity to maximise publicity through the production of leaflets and an end of year report on achievements. The funding would also be used to purchase tools such as heavy duty gloves, bin bag holders, picker grippers and spikes, bulb planting dibbers, trowels, long and short handled bulb planters and shovels.
25. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the project and recommended that the full amount of £13,365.43 be approved to Moortown Community Group to administer.*
26. *The activity meets priority E3a Improved environmental appearance of inner north east, E5a support the implementation of three identified village design statements and also H2a to increase the sense of pride and belonging in neighbourhoods across the Inner North East and help to build more cohesive communities.*

SEC Lighting

Ward Lighting Upgrades - £45000 capital (£15,000 per ward)

27. The three wards in the Area Committee area are currently or shortly to undergo their lighting column replacement under the SEC PFI project for the city. Any columns that local residents or ward members would like to be upgraded so they are heritage style or so they are strong enough to hold banners, hanging baskets or festive lights need additional funding.
28. The enhancements benefit the local area by improving its attractiveness, keeping people informed and improving the vitality and hopefully in the long term economic prosperity of an area.
29. Depending on the height of the column, existing provision and what needs doing the costs are usually between £800 and £1000 per unit.
30. To enable each ward to upgrade a number of their columns depending on their differing needs it is proposed that £15,000 is set aside for each ward to use for upgrading columns. If there is any shortfall then this could be made up from funding from the ward pot.
31. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the project and recommended that the full amount of £45,000 be approved to SEC to administer in agreement with local ward members.*
32. *This project will assist in achieving priority E3a Improved environmental appearance of inner north east.*

Community Engagement Events

£3500 revenue

33. To help encourage community involvement in the Area Committee and Area Delivery Plan process the area management team has developed a full programme of engagement across the three wards.
34. To help support this engagement it is proposed that £3500 is set aside from the Stronger Communities theme allocation to fund items such as publicity, printing, refreshments, room booking, small incentives for people to get involved etc.
35. The amount applied for is based on last years spend, taking into consideration that the summer events have already taken place.
36. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the project and recommended that the full amount of £3,500 be approved to the Inner North East Area Management team to administer.*
37. *This project will assist in achieving priority H1a in the Area Delivery Plan to increase resident participation in attending and organising community events across Inner NE which promote neighbourhoods and activities within them.*

Materials for Probation and Leeds Ahead projects £2500 revenue

38. The Area Committee has agreed to fund the probation service to carry out environmental improvement work in the area and the area management team have also been working with Leeds Ahead to provide additional manpower.
39. Often schemes that need completing have need for materials, for example paint and brushes, and it is suggested that £2,500 is set aside to purchase these materials as they are needed. Previously materials have been applied for through the small grant process but this can often delay the work being done and takes time to administer.
40. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the project and recommended that the full amount of £2,500 be approved to the Inner North East Area Management team to administer.*
41. *This project will assist in achieving priority E3a Improved environmental appearance of inner north east and E4a significant improvement in the quality and cleanliness of open spaces and streetscene of priority neighbourhoods.*

Amendments to Budget Allocation

42. As members are aware budget allocations were set against the priority themes of the area delivery plan at the start of the financial year and were based on feedback from engagement with residents.
43. However with the applications we have received so far, and those in the pipeline, two of the themes, thriving communities and culture, are experiencing high levels of demand. Conversely the transport theme has not had any applications at all. It is therefore suggested that £20,000 is taken out of the transport budget and redistributed with £10,000 being put into the thriving communities theme and £10,000 into the culture theme.
44. *The Well being Fund Working Group were supportive of the budget reallocation and recommended that the changes be applied as outlined above.*

Recommendations

45. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and agree which projects they would like to approve funding for from the Wellbeing budget and also to approve the transfer of £20,000 from the transport budget with £10,000 being put into the thriving communities theme and £10,000 into the culture theme.
 - a) Chapel Allerton Arts festival £6,000 – revenue
 - b) Installation of a gate at Potternewton Park - £4,000 capital
 - c) The Bumps Playspace - £15,000 capital
 - d) Moortown Neighbourhood Design Statement and in Bloom - £13,365.43 revenue
 - e) Heritage Lighting - £45k capital

Background Papers

Area Committee Roles and Functions 2009/10

